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RECORD COMMISSION.

SCOTLAND.

Correspondence

OF

C. P. COOPER, ESQ.

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD,

WITH

THOMAS THOMSON, ESQ.

DEPUTY CLERK REGISTER.

Memorial

OF

ROBERT PITCAIRN, ESQ.

WRITER TO THE SIGNET.

143231

Reports

OF THE

DEPUTY CLERK REGISTER,

FROM 1822 TO 1831.

LONDON.—1835.

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ABSTRACT of the Papers here printed, with some REMARKS, in addition to the Notes already subjoined,* for facilitating the perusal of them.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1831.

June 6, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr Thomson inclosing an Order of the Board, dated the 20th May, 1831, requiring,—that the Secretary should procure from Mr. Thomson an Estimate of the time and yearly or other expense requisite for completing the compilation and printing of the *Abridgment of the Registers of Seisins*, distinguishing the particular charges for compiling, editing, correcting the press, printing, and paper; and also an Estimate of the time and yearly or other expense requisite for completing the compilation and transcription of the *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal*, and of recopying and printing the same; and for completing the transcription of the *Ancient Charters*, and the printing of the same: and that the Secretary should desire Mr. Thomson to furnish the Board with a detailed statement of his reasons for recommending the termination of the *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal* in the form

* My Notes are in Italics and between brackets.

hitherto followed in the reign of James the Sixth; and also with an Estimate of the time and yearly or other expense necessary for completing the *Parliamentary Records of Scotland,* distinguishing the expense of completing the *First Volume,* and also the expense of cancelling and reprinting the *Records of the Parliament of Charles I.,* and also the expense of compiling and printing the *General Index of Matters;* and that the Secretary should also desire Mr. Thomson to furnish the Board with his opinion as to the subdivision of the Index into periods, and the reason of his opinion in detail.—Page 1.

The above-mentioned Order.—Page 4.

June 15, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Thomson to Mr. Cooper, announcing a New Series of Quarterly Reports, the first of which should embody nearly everything requisite as an answer on the points referred to in the Order of the Board.—Page 5.

June 24, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr. Thomson, desiring, that no further expense might be incurred until all the details required by the letter of the 6th of June should have been furnished; requiring a list of transcripts made at the expense of the Board, and information respecting the *Acta Dominorum Auditorum* and *Acta Dominorum Concilii,* which appeared to have been put to press nineteen years ago, but of which Mr. Caley stated he knew nothing.—Page 6.

July 13, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr. Thomson, calling his attention to the last letter, and stating that all the works in England and Scotland were suspended, and that no directions could be given to the Sub-Commissioners in England until it should be known what money would be necessary for the work, which it might

be thought most expedient should be again put in progress in Scotland.—Page 9.

August 5, 1831.] The last letter remaining without answer—Letter of Mr. Cooper to His Majesty's Printers in Scotland, requesting from them part of the information required from Mr. Thomson, and acquainting them with the Order for suspending printing.—Page 10.

Same date.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr. Thomson, expressing painful regret at his silence, and apprising him that, unless all the information demanded were shortly sent, the works in England would be again put in motion, without any reference to those still incomplete in Scotland, and that when the whole money granted by Parliament should be appropriated, it would be too late to entertain any proposal even respecting the *Acts of Parliament of Scotland.*—Page 11.

August 10, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Thomson to Mr. Cooper, promising the information desired by the next post.—Page 12.

Dec. 10, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr. Thomson, stating it was not his intention to say anything upon the mortification and vexation of which Mr. T.'s long and unaccountable silence had been the cause, and informing him that the sum of £2912 was lying for him at the bankers, and would be paid upon a proper acknowledgment being forwarded.—Page 12.

Dec. 12, 1831.] Letter from Mr. Thomson to Mr. Cooper, excusing his silence from ill health, and promising a large packet very soon.—Page 13.

Dec. 16, 1831.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr. Thomson, in reply to the last, entreating that no time might be

lost in forwarding the packet above mentioned, and stating that no doubt was entertained that it contained the details respecting the Scotch Records, Publications, Transcripts, &c. required by the letters of the preceding summer, &c.—Page 15.

About this time I requested the late Mr. Caley, who had known Mr. Thomson intimately for many years, to write a letter acquainting him with the dissatisfaction occasioned by his extraordinary neglect of the Orders of the Board; and suggesting, that the recent liquidation of his account having renewed the communication, he should not again suffer it to be interrupted; and intimating, that the new regulations were such, that if my official letters remained unanswered, the consequence might be very disagreeable to himself.

Mr. Caley subsequently informed me, that he had written to the above effect, concealing, however, that it was at my instance, but that no notice was ever taken of his letter.

1832.

July 2, 1832.] Letter of Mr. Cooper to Mr. Thomson, stating despair of ever hearing from him again, and a hope that the authority to proceed with the *First Volume of the Acts of Parliament of Scotland*, so soon as the necessary Estimate was furnished, would be an inducement to write.—Page 16.

1833.

1834.

Nov. 18, 1834.] Mr. Pitcairn's note to Mr. Cooper, forwarding a letter from Mr. Thomson.—Page 17.

Nov. 8, 1834.] The said letter from Mr. Thomson to Mr. Cooper.—Page 17.

In answer to this letter I wrote to Mr. Thomson, as follows:—

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
Nov. 19th, 1834.

My Dear Sir,

It is with an astonishment that it would be useless for me to attempt to describe, that I have read the letter of which Mr. Pitcairn is the bearer. That any one could act as you state in neglect and contempt of my letters, and in defiance of the Orders of the Board, is incredible—that you should have done so is altogether inconceivable. It is with pain and reluctance that I inform you of my inability to assist you in any way. As Secretary it will be my duty to lay before the Commissioners any papers you may think it expedient to forward to me.

I remain, my dear Sir,
Your's, truly,
C. P. Cooper.

Tho. Thomson, Esq.
Register House, Edinburgh.

I have not since received any communication from Mr. Thomson.

MEMORIAL OF MR. PITCAIRN.

Nov. 26, 1834.] Letter of Mr. Pitcairn to Mr. Cooper, transmitting the Memorial.—Page 22.

The Memorial.—Pages 24—37.

The Official Consent of the Board to the employment of Mr. Pitcairn, and the Commissioners "approbation" of the Specimens of the *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal*, alluded to in this Memorial, do not distinctly appear from any documents to which I have access; it is presumed, however, that these may be very reasonably inferred from the Quarterly Reports of Mr. Thomson, contained in the Appendix.

List of Mr. Pitcairn's Interim Payments, Oct. 1825—Dec. 1831.—Page 37.

Dec. 3, 1834.] Letter from Mr. Pitcairn to Mr. Cooper, inclosing Extracts of letter from Mr. Thomson to Mr. Caley, dated June 12th, 1824, and of letter from Mr. Caley to Mr. Thomson, dated 3d July, 1824, forwarding a copy of Order of the Board, dated June 21, 1824; Extract from Mr. Thomson's Sixty-eighth Quarterly Report, and Extract from Statement of Expenses.—Page 38.

The above-mentioned Extracts and Order.—Pages 39—43.

Mr. THOMSON'S

QUARTERLY REPORTS TO THE BOARD,

From January, 1822, to March, 1831.

It is thought expedient to print these Quarterly Reports in an Appendix, partly to supply the Commissioners with all the materials which the *Proceedings of the Board* afford, that can elucidate the principal subject of inquiry, and partly to enable them to come to some conclusion respecting the measures to be adopted with reference to the works which, down to the middle of the year 1831, were carried on under their authority at Edinburgh.

It is with this latter view that the Reports commence prior to Mr. Pitcairn's engagement. Annual Reports of the Deputy Clerk, down to 1821 inclusive, have been already printed. (See *Cooper on the Public Records*, vol. ii. p. 180.*) And the Quarterly Reports made since that period will fill up the deficiency occasioned by their discontinuance.

It has been intimated to me that this is a fitting opportunity of again calling attention to the volumes called the *Acta Dominorum Auditorum*, and *Acta Dominorum Concilii*. The following Extracts from the *Proceedings of the Board* for the year 1833, comprise all that I have been able to learn respecting those works.

* Short Extracts from some of the Quarterly Reports in the present Appendix occur in that work.

Extracts from the Proceedings of the Board, February 11, 1833.

"The *Acta Dominorum Auditorum* and *Acta Dominorum Concilii*, printed at Edinburgh under the authority of the Record Commission.—Notwithstanding the numerous Reports, printed and manuscript, that make mention of these works, their existence was, and not without reason, doubted, when, upon application to Mr. Caley, he stated he had no recollection of any such publications. These doubts have, however, been effectually removed, in consequence of the Secretary having obtained, from His Majesty's Printers in Scotland, copies of their bills, one of which contains the following items:—

November 2, 1816.	£	s.	d.
1000 Copies *Acta Dominorum Concilii*—109 sheets pica folio, printed with abbreviated types	1310	6	7
2 Fac-simile Engravings, from Records, for ditto	38	0	0
1000 Copies *Acta Auditorum*—63 sheets pica folio, printed with abbreviated types	756	18	3
2 Fac-simile Engravings, from Records, for ditto	44	14	0

See *Cooper on the Public Records*, vol. ii. pp. 218—224 and 472. Even since that compilation was published many endeavours have been made to obtain copies of the *Acta Dominorum Concilii* and *Acta Dominorum Auditorum*, but they have been equally unsuccessful."

"Letter from Messrs. Baldwin and Cradock, stating the number of copies of the Register of the Great Seal, and of Vols. II. III. IV. and V. of the Acts of Parliament of Scotland, that they have lately received from Mr. Thomson; but that no copies of the *Acta Dominorum Auditorum*, or of the *Acta Dominorum Concilii*, have been sent, nor has any communication been made to them of the reason of this omission. ——The Secretary some time since directed Messrs. Baldwin and Cradock to write to Mr. Thomson for copies of the last mentioned works, hoping that their application might meet with better success than those made by himself."

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board, March 9, 1833.

"*Acta Dominorum Auditorum*—*Acta Dominorum Concilii*—See Notes of Business for the Board of February 11th, 1833, No. VII. page 69. In pursuance of the Order made at that Board, the Secretary wrote to the Lord Clerk Register; who has transmitted in reply a Letter addressed to him by Mr. Thomson, from which the following is an extract:—'When the Parliamentary Proceedings for the reigns of King James III. and 'King James IV. were in preparation for the press, I stated to 'the Record Commissioners that the Registers of Parliament, 'during a part of these reigns, were encumbered with a load of 'Proceedings in Private Causes, before the Committees of Par-'liament denominated *Domini Auditores ad Causas et Querelas;* 'and suggested the expediency of detaching these from the 'larger work of the Acts in full Parliament, and printing them as 'a separate and supplemental volume. This suggestion was 'adopted and acted on; and it naturally led to another, which 'was, to print, as a second and almost necessary part of the same 'collection, the contemporaneous Proceedings of the Lords of 'Council (*Domini Concilii*), who exercised a certain jurisdiction 'during the intervals between Parliament and Parliament, under 'which the same causes were taken up and proceeded on which 'had depended before the Lords Auditors of Causes and Com-'plaints. On the peculiar nature, commencement and progress 'of these works, very minute details are given in my Quarterly 'Reports to the Record Commissioners, as well as in my Annual 'Reports to the Lord Clerk Register.

'The text of both these works, or rather parts of the same 'work, was completed in the year 1816, and the publication 'then only awaited an *Index Materiarum*, on which the late in-'genious and learned Mr. Dillon had been employed for a con-'siderable time. The Index of the first part, or *Acta Domina-'rum Auditorum*, &c. was at length put to the press; but on an 'anxious examination of it, I felt it impossible for me to sanction

'its adoption without great alterations: the Index to the other 'part of the work still remained unfinished, and never was com- 'municated to me.

'Under these somewhat painful and embarrassing circum- 'stances, it appeared to me the more eligible course to postpone 'the publication of these supplemental volumes until the publi- 'cation of the principal work should be completed, and having 'had in this also the concurrence of the Commissioners, the 'works have remained ever since in this unfinished state. In 'consequence however of the late demand of the London Book- 'sellers, which I had no doubt was sanctioned by the orders of 'the present Board, I have given directions for completing and 'preparing these works for immediate publication, with the 'requisite Prefaces, Preliminary Tables, and Indexes of Persons 'and Places; having it in view to give any additional Indexes of 'matters which might be found necessary, along with those that 'are in preparation, and intended to form Volume Twelfth of the 'Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland.

'I have only to add that the whole of the impression is care- 'fully preserved in the apartments of the Register House, which, 'since 1824, the year of the great fires in the vicinity of the King's 'Printing House, have been set apart for the use of the Record 'Commission.'"

No copy of either of these works has yet reached my hands.

C. P. C.

Lincoln's Inn,
January 12, 1835.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1831.

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
June 6th, 1831.

My dear Sir,

Thanks for Sir James Melville's Memoirs. My grateful acknowledgment of such a mark of your friendly disposition towards me would not have been so long delayed, had I not flattered myself that I should have found an opportunity to write to you a letter more literary and less official than this must necessarily be. But *ce qui est differé n'est pas perdu,* and I do not despair of being able at some future time to extend my correspondence beyond the strict limits of the Secretaryship, and thus reap some of the advantages which my good fortune has placed within my reach by introducing me to your acquaintance.—We are not a bit more advanced as regards financial matters than when you were in town, and until Parliament meets we shall not be able to

decide upon our future operations. The works of Petrie and of Palgrave must proceed, and so must those under your superintendence. All the others have been suspended, and are likely to be so, unless Parliament will make a separate grant for some of the above works. Indeed, unless the progress of printing the Parliamentary Writs be somewhat slackened, there will not be money for the common expenses of the Commission. It turns out that we owe the King's Printer in London more than £5000 for unfinished works, not one sixpence of which is included in the estimate sent into the Treasury. I fear something of the sort is the case in Scotland. Pray let me know what is owing for printing at Edinburgh in respect of the current bill. In London the printer makes no charge until the volume is finished; but, of course, if a work be suspended he must send in his account. We have the satisfaction of beginning our labours with a debt of £6000, over and above the amount for which our friend Caley has called upon the Government to provide. A copy of an Order of the Board for Estimates, &c. respecting the works under your care accompanies this. Pray let us have the information as soon as possible. In the mean time, I am very desirous of having, with as little delay as possible, a copy written or printed of your *Prolegomena* to the *First Volume of the Scotch Acts of Parliament*, and also such portions of all works as have been

printed, but not yet published. I have nothing but the *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, the volumes of *Retours*, and the *Acts of Parliament*. I have laid before the Chancellor a scheme for a grand Record Office on the site of the Rolls Estate, with which he is much pleased. It may be executed without the aid of the public purse, and is now before Government. The Surveyor-General speaks in high terms of it, but I am too well acquainted with the difficulties universally thrown in the way of all similar measures for the public benefit to be at all sanguine respecting the result. Small difficulties, however, shall not deter me. There will be another meeting of the Commissioners in about ten days, when I hope to be able to state, at all events, that I have heard from Scotland. I hope you received Professor Rask's letter.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

C. P. Cooper.

Thomas Thomson, Esq.

P.S. I have not been able to discover in the Minute Books your scheme for compiling and printing the *Abridgment of the Register of Seisins*, in which it is shown in what way the expense will be reimbursed to the public. Will you have the goodness to give me some clue to it?

Order of the Board, dated the 20th day of May, 1831, inclosed in the foregoing Letter.

ORDERED—That the Secretary do procure from Mr. Thomson an estimate of the time and yearly or other expense requisite for completing the compilation and printing of the *Abridgment of the Register of Seisins*, distinguishing the particular charges for compiling, editing, correcting the press, printing, and paper, and also an estimate of the time and yearly or other expense requisite for completing the compilation and transcription of the *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal*, and of re-copying and printing the same, and for completing the transcription of the *Ancient Charters* and the printing of the same; and that the Secretary do desire Mr. Thomson to furnish the Board with a detailed statement of his reasons for recommending the termination of the *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal*, in the form hitherto followed, in the reign of James the Sixth, and also with an estimate of the time and yearly or other expense necessary for completing the *Parliamentary Records of Scotland*, distinguishing the expense of completing the *first volume*, and also the expense of cancelling and re-printing the *Records of the Parliament of Charles I.*, and also the expense of compiling and

printing the *General Index of Matters;* and the Secretary is also to desire Mr. Thomson to furnish the Board with his opinion as to the subdivision of the Index into periods, and the reason of his opinion in detail.

George Street, Edinburgh,
June 15th, 1831.

My dear Sir,

I now write these few lines merely to acknowledge your letter of the 6th of June, enclosing an Order of the Board, to which I am preparing a detailed Return. In my last Quarterly Report for January, February, and March, I stated the progress made within that period on the several works now in hand, referring to my former Reports for further explanations. Now it appears to me a better plan to withdraw this Report, and to substitute a detailed and explanatory Report, superseding all such reference; and to hold this as the first of a New Series of Quarterly Reports, addressed to the present Commissioners. In the first Report I shall embody nearly every thing requisite as an answer on the points referred to in the Order of the Board. To the other matters alluded to in your letter I shall also pay immediate attention.

Excuse this short note, and believe me, with sincere regard,

My dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

THO. THOMSON.

C. P. COOPER, ESQ.

NEW BOSWELL COURT, LINCOLN'S INN
June 24th, 1831.

MY DEAR SIR,

IT will, I trust, be a satisfaction to you to learn that, although I have thought it my duty to withdraw the Estimate prepared by Mr. Caley, and to replace it by another considerably modified, yet that I have made no change as regards Scotland. This you must attribute to the confidence placed by the Commissioners in their Sub-Commissioner at Edinburgh, which induces them to adopt his accounts for the period preceding their appointment without subjecting them to the scrutiny which the accounts of the other Sub-Commissioners have undergone. The Commissioners, however, desire that no further expense may be incurred until all the details required by my last letter have been furnished. You will see the necessity of this suspension of the different works carrying on in Scotland, when I inform you that a letter from the Treasury has obliged

me to suspend the printing of the only two works which were in progress here, I mean those of Mr. Palgrave and Mr. Petrie. The Commissioners also desire that you will furnish me with a full list and description of all the Transcripts, made at the expense of the Commission under your direction, which have not yet been printed, including those made at the Tower, British Museum, &c. as well as those the whole or portion of which seem to have been privately printed, as the *Chamberlain's Accounts*, &c. The Commissioners are also desirous of having information respecting the *Acta Dominorum ad Causas*, &c. and the *Acta Dominorum Concilii*, considerable portions of which were printed nineteen years ago. Mr. Caley states he knows nothing whatever of those works. The portions of these works and of others the printing of which has been commenced and afterwards abandoned or suspended (including specimens), must be forwarded to me immediately. Be so good also as to send me a set of your printed *Annual Reports*, and to state the reason why they are discontinued. Caley says, that none have been made since 1821. Will you give me the Titles of the *Wardrobe Accounts*, the *Chamberlain's Accounts*, and the *Treasurer's Accounts*, and of any other works of that nature that may have been lately printed at Edinburgh, with the names of the publishers, in case the works are for sale. Have the kindness in your communication

to distinguish such of the Scotch Record Works both in print and in transcript, and finished, in progress, and suspended, destined for a local or official purpose, as the *Abridgment of the Register of Seisins*, from those which have a general interest.

I quite approve of your proposal to give a detailed and explanatory Report, superseding the necessity of reference to former Reports, and upon its arrival shall lose no time in laying it before the Board, when, I make no doubt, I shall be instructed to give orders for resuming the prosecution of all the most important works. In the mean time, however, I shall be glad to have some general information upon the different topics of this and of my former letter.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours, very truly,

C. P. Cooper.

T. Thomson, Esq.

P.S. The Commissioners also require a List of all printed Books purchased at the public expense for the use of the Scotch Sub-Commissioners, &c.

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
July 13th, 1831.

My dear Sir,

I am directed to call your attention to my letter of the 24th of last month, to which I have received no answer. All the works in England and Scotland are, as you are aware, suspended—to give time for the formation of a plan for their future prosecution, regard being had to the heavy debt and diminished income of the Commission; and no directions can be given to the Sub-Commissioners here until it is known what money will be necessary for the work which it may be thought most expedient should be again put in progress at Edinburgh. The supplies to meet the expenditure of last year, for which provision has been made by the Estimates, will probably be voted in a day or two.

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Yours, very faithfully,
C. P. Cooper.*

Tho. Thomson, Esq.

* [*No answer to this letter has ever been received.*]

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
August 5th, 1831.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by his Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records to request that you will without loss of time transmit to me Copies of all the Bills of the King's Printers for Scotland, for printing, &c. done under the direction of the Commissioners from the year 1800 to the present time; and that you will at the same time transmit to me copies of all such works as have been printed and not published, including the sheets of unfinished works, as the *Acta Dominorum*, &c. and also portions of works since cancelled, as the *first volume of the Acts of Parliament*, &c. The Commissioners particularly desire that the collection may be complete. The portion of the *first volume of the Acts of Parliament* now printing, together with all the cancels, will of course form part. The Commissioners also wish to have copies of all the *Annual Reports*, &c. printed by the King's Printers, if any copies are still left. They presume Mr. Thomson has acquainted you with their orders for suspending all printing for the same.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble Servant,

C. P. Cooper.

Messrs. Waddell and Co.

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
August 5th, 1831.

My dear Sir,

The Commissioners request that you will forthwith transmit to me an Account of all Expenses incurred in respect of Printing, Transcripts, &c. between the time to which the Accounts before Parliament were made out, and the time when all further proceedings were suspended.

It is a subject of painful regret with me that you should not think proper to notice my letters, and the more so, as your silence impedes our arrangements here; but unless all the information which the Commissioners require be shortly sent, the works here will be again put into motion, without any reference to those still incomplete in Scotland, and when the whole money granted by Parliament shall be appropriated it will be too late to entertain any proposal even respecting *your Acts of Parliament.*

I remain, my dear Sir,
Yours, very truly,
C. P. Cooper.

T. Thomson, Esq.

P. S. I have written to the King's Printers in Scotland by to-day's Post.

George Street, Edinburgh,
August 10th, 1831.

My Dear Sir,

On my return after an absence from home of a few days, I found your letter of the 5th, in which you but too justly censure my tardiness in communicating the information desired by the Commissioners. I regret that by this post I cannot complete and transmit all that you require; but by the next I trust there will be nothing to prevent me from doing so. Meanwhile, beseeching your forbearance, I remain,

My dear Sir, Yours truly,

Tho. Thomson.*

C. P. Cooper, Esq.

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
Dec. 10th, 1831.

My Dear Sir,

It is not my intention to say any thing upon the mortification and vexation of which your long and unaccountable silence has been

* [*The information here promised was not forwarded.*]

the cause. The object of this letter is simply to inform you that the money due to you from the late Record Commission (£2912) has, ever since it was received from the Treasury, been lying at the bankers of the Commissioners, and will be paid upon a proper acknowledgment being forwarded to me.

I remain, my dear Sir,
yours, very truly,
C. P. Cooper.

T. Thomson, Esq.

George Street, Edinburgh,
Dec. 12th, 1831.

My Dear Sir,

I am but too well aware how hard I shall be pushed to make out a case in explanation of what you justly call my long and unaccountable silence. When I last wrote to you, I had just entered on a state of bilious illness—sickness — debility — which deprived me of all power of useful exertion; and even now the *vis inertiæ* is only beginning to give way to returning health. May you never experience such suspensions of mental vigour.

I trust you will receive from me a large packet very soon. Meanwhile, I send you an acknowledgment for the money referred to in your letter, which is conceived in the form prescribed by Mr. Caley. When in town I left with you the statement of my disbursements, with the vouchers; but I believe one or two are wanting, which had been accidentally mislaid. Have the kindness to examine and inform me which they are, and duplicates will be instantly forwarded to you.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours truly,

THO. THOMSON.

C. P. COOPER, ESQ.

Have the goodness to direct the money to be remitted to me through the banking-house of Sir William Forbes & Co. here.

Messrs. Williams & Co. will at your desire pay the above to Messrs. Coutts & Co., on account of Sir Wm. Forbes & Co., for the use of Tho. Thomson.*

* [*This is the last letter from Mr. Thomson that has reached my hands, except two—the one, written soon after the two Houses of Parliament were destroyed by fire, and merely inquiring what injury the Records had sustained on that occasion—the other, the letter of which Mr. Pitcairn was the bearer.* *See post, p.* 17.]

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
December 16th, 1831.

My Dear Sir,

It grieves me much to hear that you have been visited by so severe a bilious attack; let us hope, however, that the re-establishment of your health will be more rapid than you seem to anticipate.

This morning Messrs. Williams & Co. of Birchin Lane, the bankers of the Commissioners, will receive orders to remit the money as you desire. Let me intreat you not to lose any time in forwarding to me the packet to which you allude, as I make no doubt it contains the details respecting the Scotch Records, Publications, Transcripts, &c. which are requested by my letters of last summer. Despairing of hearing from you, I had commenced printing that portion of my Compilation which relates to Scotland,* and should be vexed were an injustice done by any statement or omission occasioned from my present imperfect information. I have stopped the press until such time as an answer can be received to this letter.

I remain, my dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
C. P. Cooper.

Tho. Thomson, Esq.

* [*It is the second volume of* Cooper on the Public Records, *which is here alluded to.*]

1832.

New Boswell Court, Lincoln's Inn,
July 2d, 1832.

My Dear Sir,

I almost despair of ever hearing from you again. Perhaps, however, when you learn that I am authorised to instruct you to proceed with the *first volume of the Acts of Parliaments of Scotland* so soon as I can obtain from you the necessary estimate, it will be an inducement to write.

Nearly all the works of the Board have been suspended for the last twelve months, in order to enable us to discharge the immense debt left by the former Commission, and this is now almost accomplished.

I sincerely trust that your health is re-established.

Believe me, &c.
C. P. Cooper.

Tho. Thomson, Esq.

1834.

25, Thavies' Inn, Holborn,
18th November, 1834.

Mr. Pitcairn presents respectful compliments to Mr. Cooper, and loses no time, on his arrival in town, in forwarding Mr. Thomson's packet. Mr. P. will be happy to wait on Mr. Cooper at such time to-day or to-morrow as may be most convenient for him.

C. P. Cooper, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Edinburgh,
November 8th, 1834.

My Dear Sir,

This letter will be presented to you by Mr. Robert Pitcairn (writer to the Signet), one of the two gentlemen employed under the Record Commission on the Abridgment of the Registers of the Great Seal. On referring to my correspondence with Mr. Caley in the years 1824 and 1825, you will probably find that Mr. Pitcairn was to be employed on that work, with an allowance of not less than £200 per annum, until some ulterior arrangement should be made; and on that

footing he received that annual payment down to the 1st of April, 1831.

When it was communicated to me, by your letter of June 24, 1831, that it was the desire of the Board that no further proceedings should be held under the Commission in Scotland until further orders, I found myself placed in a most distressing situation. Most of the persons then employed on the several works in progress, had been so employed for a good many years before; most of them had been instructed in their peculiar duties with great care and pains; all of them had been withdrawn from other occupations, and nearly all of them had been rendered mainly, if not entirely, dependant on the continuance of that employment. To the far greater number of them their immediate dismissal must have produced great temporary distress, and their return into other lines of business seemed to me to be little less than an entire forfeiture of all the benefit which their previous training and experience had already secured in this very peculiar line of occupation.

Under these impressions, I came to the resolution, for myself perhaps imprudently, of continuing in the mean time the principal works of compilation then in progress; and in communicating to those concerned the pleasure of the Board, I intimated, at the same time, my own view, that it was greatly to be desired that their services

should not be interrupted; and to such of them as had been receiving from me monthly or quarterly advances to account of their annual remuneration, and who could not afford to go on otherwise, I undertook in the mean time, from my own resources, or by means of my own personal credit, to continue to them their several allowances until a more proper arrangement should be obtained.

Mr. Pitcairn was not one of those to whom any immediate advances of the kind now alluded to were indispensably necessary; and, down to the present time, he has continued his services without having received any remuneration later than that due on the 1st of April, 1831. At last, however, he has become impatient under my tardiness, and has expressed to me his desire of bringing his own case under the notice of the Commissioners,—a desire I have no reason to feel surprised at, and which I should be most unwilling to counteract by withholding from him any aid which my statements on his behalf can possibly afford.

In thus allowing things to remain so long on their present unsettled footing, I need not confess how very much I feel myself to blame. I have no sufficient apology to offer; but I may say that hitherto I have taken care that the public should not be injured by these delays, and that I myself have been, in the mean time, the greatest sufferer

under the temporary arrangements that have been acted upon. All this, however, will require more explanation and detail than I can properly introduce into this letter; but, with reference to Mr. Pitcairn's case, I have still to state, that the work on which he has been employed is now brought down, in draft, very nearly to the close of the reign of King James the Sixth, when I have proposed that it should terminate. In adopting that period, I have been influenced chiefly by the consideration, that the number of Original Grants from the Crown then becomes comparatively small, while that of the mere renewal of former Grants becomes much greater; and while the abridgment of these last would greatly swell the bulk of the compilation, nearly the whole advantage to be derived from it may be obtained from a mere Calendar or Chronological Index to the subsequent volumes of the Record. Of the time that would be required to revise the whole work and prepare it for the press, or the probable extent of it in print, I can form but a vague conjecture. My calculation is, that it might be comprised in two volumes not much larger than the Abridgment of Retours; that the earlier reigns might be in a state to be sent to press in the course of the winter, while the later reigns were in the progress of revisal; and that two years might be nearly sufficient for the completion of the work. I need scarcely add, that I should consider the final revisal as a duty devolving on myself.

I should have certainly thought it more advisable for all parties, that any partial statement of the kind here given should have been superseded by a more general one, applicable to the whole of the proceedings in Scotland since June 1831; but having been suddenly called upon to make this communication, I could not refuse Mr. Pitcairn's request, and can only add, that I shall be gratified by whatever degree of attention or countenance you may be able to give him.

I am, dear Sir,
Your very faithful Servant,
THO. THOMSON.

C. P. COOPER, ESQ.

P. S. You may readily believe that I am extremely anxious to get out of my present very awkward position with the Board; and, with their permission, I should wish to place before them a detailed view of the progress actually made in the different branches since April 1831, and the expense that has been incurred, and in great part defrayed in the way I have mentioned in my letter. Of that expense the far greater part has been occasioned by continuing the Abridgment of Seisins,—the interruption of which would have been every way most unfortunate, and as to which I felt disposed to run all risks, rather than disappoint the anxious expectations of the public.

MEMORIAL OF Mr. PITCAIRN.

Letter of Mr. Pitcairn to the Secretary, inclosing the Memorial.

London, 25 Thavies' Inn,
26th November, 1834.

Dear Sir,

I have now the honour of transmitting my Memorial to the Honourable Board of Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom, which has been drawn up, I trust, in the spirit of your very kind suggestions. I regret that it has necessarily extended to a greater length than I had anticipated.

In case of Mr. Caley's having omitted to send you the specimen of the first rough sketch of Proof Sheets which I have alluded to—and which were exhibited by the Deputy Clerk Register to the Board when in London in spring, 1827, and formally approved of—I beg leave to produce the only copy which, on the sudden, Mr. Thomson could find when I left Edinburgh.

My friends have urgently recommended me to request the favour of your ordering to be laid on the table of the Board the accompanying copy of my *Ancient Scottish Criminal Trials** and the *Testimonials*† referred to in the Memorial, in conse-

* [Pitcairn's Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland. *Edinburgh*, 1829—1830. *3 vols. 7 parts. 4to. See the* Quarterly Review—*March*, 1830.]

† ["Testimonials relative to the qualifications of Robert Pitcairn, W. S. as Candidate for the office of Secretary to the Edin-

quence of my being personally known to so very few of the Commissioners. This additional trouble I trust you will pardon; and I firmly rely on a favourable consideration of my case at as early a date as may be consistent with the other and far more important avocations of yourself and the Members of the Board.

I have the honour to be,
Dear Sir,
Your faithful Servant,
ROB. PITCAIRN.

C. P. COOPER, ESQ.
Secretary to the Record Commission,
&c. &c. &c.

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burgh Life Assurance Company, February, 1834." *These Testimonials, copies of which are in the hands of most of the Commissioners, are contained in letters from the Honourable Lord* Lindsay; *the Honourable Baron* Hume; Macvey Napier, *Esq. Professor of Conveyancing in the University of Edinburgh;* John Graham Dalyell, *Esq. Advocate;* Sir William Hamilton, *Bart., Professor of Universal History in the University of Edinburgh;* James Skene, *Esq.;* Samuel Hibbert, *Esq. M.D.;* Sir Henry Jardine, *His Majesty's Remembrancer;* David Irving, *Esq. LL.D. Keeper of the Library of the Faculty of Advocates;* Richard Mackenzie, *Esq. Deputy Keeper of the Signet;* John Shank More, *Esq. Advocate;* *Rev.* John Lee, *D.D.;* Alexander Pringle, *Esq.;* James Dennistoun, *Esq.;* George Brodie, *Esq. Advocate*; *Rev.* John Jamieson, *D.D. and others. All these letters were written in February,* 1834. *There is further testimony to the character, historical research, accuracy, and assiduity of Mr. Pitcairn, in a certificate signed by Sir Walter Scott in June,* 1825, *and a letter written by him to Lord Stowell, upon the occasion of Mr. Pitcairn's being Candidate for the office of Chief Clerk to the Board of Trade.*]

MEMORIAL

FOR

ROBERT PITCAIRN,

Writer to His Majesty's Signet,

TO THE

HONOURABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ON THE

PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE KINGDOM.

From an early period of life, your Memorialist has had opportunities of becoming familiarly acquainted with the state of the various Public Records of Scotland, his father having held the responsible office of Principal Keeper of the Register of Deeds, Testaments, &c. for above fifty years, and for a considerable period it became necessary for the Memorialist, owing to his father's very advanced age, to render him all the assistance in his power in the discharge of his various official duties.

In the year 1809 your Memorialist was articled to an eminent Conveyancer and Writer or Clerk to His Majesty's Signet, where he had ample opportunities of examining a great variety of ancient

Charters and other early MSS., and he there first acquired a taste for those studies and pursuits which have since chiefly occupied his maturer years.

The Memorialist obtained his Commission as a Writer or Clerk to the Signet in 1815, and was shortly afterwards appointed by the Court of Session to conduct the cases of persons suing *in formâ pauperis*, who had been admitted on the "Poor's Roll." This gratuitous office the Memorialist discharged to the best of his ability, until relieved by the Court. From the period of his being articled, down to the date of his father's resignation of his office, the Memorialist gave almost daily attendance at the General Register House, at all hours which could be spared from professional engagements. When his father had attained his seventy-fifth year, and having long felt the increasing infirmities of old age, he tendered a resignation of his office in the hands of the then Lord Clerk Register (Colquhoun), in favour of your Memorialist. His lordship having offered him very liberal terms in the shape of a retired allowance, and having also undertaken to provide for your Memorialist otherwise, in a manner more consonant with his pursuits, your Memorialist readily concurred in the proposed arrangement; when the Lord Register appointed a distant relation of his own to fill that office—but his lordship died before being able to implement his engagement with your Memorialist.

Having long previously been personally known to the Deputy Clerk Register of Scotland, Thomas Thomson, Esq., as a person much devoted to antiquarian studies, and tolerably skilled in ancient MSS., that gentleman, after some previous preliminary communications, at length made a formal proposal to your Memorialist in the beginning of summer, 1824, (after he had corresponded with the late John Caley, Esq. then Secretary of the Record Commissioners, and through him obtained the official consent of the Board in London,) that your Memorialist should undertake the preparation and publication of a work which had long been contemplated by the Commissioners, and occupied a prominent place in the earlier printed Reports of the Board. As Sub-Commissioner for Scotland, the Deputy Clerk Register informed your Memorialist that he had long ago been authorised to engage the services of a professional person, duly qualified, and possessed of sufficient industry and perseverance to frame a Digest or Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, commencing with the year 1424, when King James I. returned from his long captivity in England; but that hitherto he had not succeeded in prevailing on any one to undertake so laborious and formidable a task.

Before finally arranging such an important undertaking, your Memorialist resolved on devoting the entire Summer Vacation (extending

from July 12th to November 12th) in the investigation of the nature and extent of the labour and time necessary to be expended by him in accomplishing such a protracted and arduous work. He therefore carefully examined the Registers of the Great Seal, and consulted from time to time with the Deputy Clerk Register, to whom he submitted specimens of a more practically useful form of Abridgment than had been accomplished in those volumes of the Digest which had originally been framed at a preceding period under the directions of the Board. It appeared to your Memorialist that, with a view to practical utility, the projected Digest ought to embrace, within the smallest possible compass, and *in ipsissimis verbis* of the original Charters, all the legal, historical and genealogical information which could be extracted from them.

After severe and laborious application during these four months, he prepared such specimens of the work as subsequently met with the approbation of the Commissioners—and he lodged with the Deputy Register, Remarks and Memoranda, suggesting many improvements upon this important department of the Public Records of Scotland: and especially, a plan for the Restoration of the Ancient Record of the Great Seal, by procuring an extensive collection of valuable early unrecorded Charters, and engrossing authentic transcripts of them in a new Register proposed

to be opened for that purpose. Thousands of such documents, embracing Patents of Nobility, Foundation Charters of Boroughs, Patents and Gifts of Offices and Titles of Honour, &c. which, though unrecorded, were granted during the reigns of early Scottish Kings, your Memorialist knew to be preserved in the Charter Rooms of the Nobility, the lesser Barons, Royal Boroughs and Corporations, and in the cabinets of antiquaries and private gentlemen. Such documents he well knows would still be most willingly contributed towards the accomplishment of so desirable a national undertaking.

At the period of his entering upon this experimental task, your Memorialist did not deem it necessary, or respectful to this Honourable Board, to make any specific arrangement for compensation, but relied entirely on the liberality of the Commissioners, who he knew to be conversant with the labour and difficulties to be necessarily encountered in the compilation and management of works of this nature. But towards the conclusion of the Summer Vacation 1824, your Memorialist, before adventuring upon so serious and extended an engagement, waited on the Deputy Register, and stated his anxiety to be distinctly informed of the precise terms, in point of pecuniary emolument or compensation for his services, for so protracted and irksome an undertaking, which necessarily involved the total aban-

donment of all professional business and Court practice. Your Memorialist was at that date a Clerk to the Signet of *nine years standing*. The Deputy Register informed your Memorialist that he had the consent of the Board, through their Secretary, to secure your Memorialist's services, and that he might rely upon the Board awarding a liberal, though not an extravagant salary; but that the Commissioners would remunerate him for the labours which the due fulfilment of such important services implied, with " the highest salary ever given to any officer under the Scottish Record Commission." With regard to the *quantum* or amount of salary, your Memorialist was informed that that would be arranged, in the most equitable manner, at the first meeting of the Board in London at which the Deputy Register could conveniently be present in person, when printed specimens of the Digest would be submitted by him to the Board. The Deputy Register likewise stated, that after the sanction of the Commissioners had been officially obtained to the peculiar plan of the work, after an examination of printed specimens, the Board would be best enabled to appoint a suitable salary to your Memorialist.

Under this mutual agreement, which in the peculiar circumstances appeared to be reasonable, your Memorialist renounced all professional business, and entered on the discharge of his duties to the Board entirely unfettered; and he continued

zealously and diligently occupied in framing the Digest. Of the periodical state of his progress, Quarterly Reports have all along been regularly lodged with the Deputy Register, to which, for the sake of avoiding prolixity, your Memorialist begs leave to call the special attention of this Honourable Board.

The first payment, which your Memorialist received to account, was not made until October 18, 1825—the Receipt for which runs thus:—"Received by me, Writer to His Majesty's Signet, "by payment of Thomas Thomson, Esquire, De- "puty Clerk Register of Scotland, from the Com- "missioners upon the Public Records of the "Kingdom, the sum of One Hundred and Fifty "Pounds, *being a payment to account of my trouble* "in framing an Abridgment of the Register of "the Great Seal." All the subsequent Receipts are, with the exception of the amount, conceived in precisely the same words. A list of these *interim* payments is appended to the present Memorial. The original Vouchers are in the hands of the Secretary to the Board.*

* [*None of the vouchers are in my possession, or indeed ever were, except that for December* 1831. *When Mr. Thomson transmitted his voucher for the sum of* £2912, *mentioned ante, p.* 13, *it was, according to the usual course, accompanied by vouchers for his different disbursements, amongst which was, without doubt, Mr. Pitcairn's last voucher. But all documents of this kind have long since been lodged at the Treasury, and I have not the slightest recollection of the name of any person who may have subscribed subordinate vouchers for a fractional part of the* £2912.]

The Deputy Register's avocations, it would appear, did not admit of his going to London for about three years after your Memorialist had commenced his labours. On his return to Scotland, the Deputy Register informed your Memorialist that, owing to the limited funds then at the disposal of the Board for the purposes of the Scottish Records, only two hundred pounds *per annum* could then be appropriated as your Memorialist's *interim* salary for conducting the Abridgment of the Great Seal; but that a liberal *retrospective allowance* would be awarded, after the work had attained a greater state of progress; and that the Board would at same time grant leave to go to press with the first portion of the work. Your Memorialist was also given to understand that on the final salary being determined upon, the additional labour of superintending the press would of course be imposed upon him, without his being allowed at the rate of so much *per* printed sheet, as was usual in similar employments. Proof sheets of the Digest, containing the whole of the Charters recorded in the Great Seal Register during the reign of King James I. were presented to the Board by the Deputy Register, and the Commissioners were pleased through him to express their approbation of the plan; and at the same time your Memorialist was instructed to proceed in preparing additional copy for the press.

On receiving these explanations, and as your Memorialist understood the Board to be well acquainted with his *status* in society, and the exertions he had hitherto made in their service, he steadily advanced in the work committed to his charge;—and on three separate occasions when your Memorialist was in London, the late Mr. Caley, then Secretary to the Board, assured your Memorialist that he might rely on receiving an adequate compensation for his labour, as he was well aware that the *interim* allowance stated in the Deputy Register's accounts, *pro tempore*, was wholly inadequate, and indeed was not higher than was usually given to an expert law-clerk or book-keeper.

Since that time, your Memorialist has been in constant and almost daily expectation that his appointment would be placed by the Commissioners on a permanent and respectable footing; and that the *retrospective allowance*, which has now been permitted to lie over unsettled during the last ten years and a half, would have been ordered to be paid to him. He has frequently applied to the Deputy Register to procure a favourable consideration of his case by the Board; and, on the occasions before alluded to, the late Mr. Caley assured your Memorialist that matters would terminate to his entire satisfaction, and that ultimately your Memorialist would have reason to be satisfied that his services had been so

zealously given to the Board. Owing to Mr. Caley's advanced age, his multifarious engagements, and latterly his demise, your Memorialist has unfortunately been deprived of his personal assistance and explanations to the Board; but this case can otherwise be sufficiently instructed by the vouchers produced, and by the attestation and explanatory statement of the Deputy Register, recently communicated to the present Secretary to this Honourable Board.

Besides these *retrospective* claims, which run from the date of his appointment in July 1824, there is now an arrear of three years and three quarters *interim* allowance at present due to your Memorialist; and it must be obvious that your Memorialist has long suffered much personal inconvenience and pecuniary embarrassment, as well as anxiety and distress of mind, and he now finds himself, after *nineteen years* standing in his profession, and after having spent above ten of the best years of his life in the faithful and zealous service of this Honourable Board, in a position of peculiar and unlooked-for hardship.

Before concluding this Memorial, your Memorialist would beg shortly to advert to another circumstance, which he believes is partially known to some of the Members of the present Board. His late lamented friend, Sir Walter Scott, Bart. seconded by the Deputy Register, following out the spirit and intention of the Publications of the

Record Commission, induced him to undertake, at his own private risk and expense, the compilation and publication of a Collection of *Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland*, from 1488 to 1624. A copy of this voluminous and expensive work is now laid on the table of the Board. The work in question has only lately been finished at press, and embraces (in the precise language and orthography of the original Records) the criminal proceedings during the entire reigns of King James IV., James V., Mary Queen of Scots, and King James VI. The accomplished projectors of this undertaking (which your Memorialist now perceives ought to have been published at the national expense, rather than at the risk of a private individual) were sanguine as to the extensive sale of such a work; and your Memorialist, in the hopes of thereby bettering his pecuniary circumstances, until he should be placed upon a more respectable footing under the employment of this Honourable Board, ventured to enter upon that laborious task, which was commenced and completed under the auspices of the Bannatyne and Maitland Literary Clubs, and the most distinguished members of the Scottish Bench and Bar. It may readily be concluded, that from the nature, as well as the expense of such a compilation, it has not been attended with the anticipated success; and, at the end of so many years of intense and severe application, (taken from periods

which ought to have been devoted to rest and recreation, before and after hours of official employment,) your Memorialist had the mortification of experiencing considerable pecuniary loss (about £500), although the work itself happened to have been favourably received. The periodical press almost uniformly, in reviewing the book, recommends your Memorialist's claim to public remuneration, for having provided the public with such valuable materials towards the illustration of the early History of Scotland.

In conclusion, your Memorialist would respectfully, but most earnestly, solicit the favourable and early consideration of his whole Case by this Honourable Board. He regrets that the present plain statement of facts has necessarily extended to a greater length than he had anticipated. He would only further briefly refer to the following documents, produced herewith, or already in the hands of the Secretary.

I. Proof sheets of the Digest or Abridgment of the Record of the Great Seal, 1424—1432.

II. Your Memorialist's Quarterly Reports (forty-one in number), lodged with the Deputy Register, exhibiting his progress periodically, from July 1824, to 1st October 1834.

III. The Deputy Register's attestation of the Memorialist's services, in a Letter addressed to Charles Purton Cooper, Esq. the Secretary to the Record Commission, and sent through your Memorialist.*

IV. Collection of Ancient Criminal Trials, before referred to, in seven quarto volumes, extending from 1488 to 1624.

V. Testimonials† of Qualifications, when your Memorialist offered himself as a Candidate for the Secretaryship of an extensive Life Assurance Company.

VI. Table of the *interim* payments to Account hitherto made to your Memorialist, appended to this Memorial.

Referring to the preceding statement and explanations, your Memorialist respectfully submits his Case to this Honourable Board, and craves the

* [*See ante, pp.* 17 to 21.]

† It may perhaps be considered superfluous to produce any Testimonials of the above description, in relation to personal respectability and general qualifications; but as these attestations were applied for on the sudden, and with no reference to the present application, they may, in the present instance, be deemed fair demonstrations of unbiassed opinion. The nature of that Office having been subsequently altered from a Secretaryship to that of Cashier and Actuary, your Memorialist at once withdrew his name.

indulgence of the Commissioners if he should inadvertently have memorialized in an unusual form, humbly trusting in the urgency and justice of his cause.

All which is humbly reported by,

ROBERT PITCAIRN.

LONDON, 25th November, 1834.

INTERIM PAYMENTS made to ROBERT PITCAIRN, Writer to His Majesty's Signet, by THE COMMISSIONERS ON THE PUBLIC RECORDS, to account of his Claim for Services, from the date of his appointment in July, 1824.

1825.—Oct. 18.	By Cash to account		(to	1st April,	1825).	£150
1826.—Sep. 26.	Do.	do.	(to	do.	1826).	£200
1827.—Aug. 1.	Do.	do.	(to	do.	1827).	£200

N. B.—At this date Mr. Pitcairn was informed of the *interim* Salary awarded by the Board.

1828.—June 26.	By Cash to account		(to	1st April,	1828).	£200
1829.—June 20.	Do.	do.	(to	do.	1829).	£200
1830.—Aug.	Do.	do.	(to	do.	1830).	£200
1831.—Dec. 29.	Do.	do.	(to	do.	1831).	£200

25, Thavies Inn, Holborn,
3d December, 1834.

Dear Sir,

I have just now received the inclosed from Mr. Thomson, in compliance with the request contained in my letter to him of 19th November. It is rather unfortunate that all the correspondence cannot be produced by him, but there is enough I trust to prove to the Commissioners that I was not employed by Mr. Thomson without full authority from the Board.

Mr. Thomson has not informed me whether he has transmitted his Reports, Accounts, &c. to you, as I have entreated him to do for above three years past, and particularly in my last letter to him above alluded to.*

In compliance with the suggestions of some of the Commissioners and of private friends, I have got my Memorial printed, and hope to be enabled to furnish you with copies on Thursday or Friday next, so as to encroach as little as possible on the valuable time of the Board, when it shall be convenient to meet.

I have the honour to be,
Dear Sir,
Your faithful and obliged Servant,

Rob. Pitcairn.

C. P. Cooper, Esquire,
&c. &c. &c.
Secretary to the Record Commission.

* [*No such Reports or Accounts have ever been sent to me.*]

1. Extract of a letter from Mr. Thomson to Mr. Caley, dated June 12th, 1824.

I herewith transmit to you, for the information of his Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom, a Series of Quarterly Reports, in continuation of those formerly laid before the Board; in which the progress of various operations in Scotland is briefly traced.

* * * * *

There is another subject to which I am also desirous of calling the attention of the Board. His Majesty's Commissioners are aware that at a former period considerable progress was made in the formation of an Abridgment of the Registers of the Great Seal, and on the nature and importance of that work I shall not resume the statements to be found in my various Reports. It is a work that has been long anxiously expected, and I am most desirous that the Board should now authorize me to resume its compilation. For several years past I have been endeavouring to discover a person fully competent by general knowledge, as well as by professional skill, to conduct and execute the undertaking; and having, as I flatter myself, been fortunate enough to secure the services of a gentleman whom I can

confidently recommend as fully equal to this task, I cannot too earnestly express my hopes that his Majesty's Commissioners will be pleased to authorize me to enter into an arrangement with him for the completion of the work.

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2. Extract of a letter from Mr. Caley to Mr. Thomson, dated London, 3d July, 1824.

On the other side you have a copy of the Order made at the Board 21st ult. &c.

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3. "At a Board of the Commissioners on the "Public Records, 21st June, 1824.

"Scotland.

"Ordered, that Mr. Thomson do proceed with "the completion of the works on the Royal Char- "ters of Scotland, as previously authorized by the "Board, and suspended by Order of 3d June, "1815."

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4. Extract from the Sixty-eighth Quarterly Report of Proceedings in execution of the Orders of his Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom, in matters regarding Scotland. July—September, 1824.

III. Royal Charters.

Under the Order of the Board of the 21st of June last, directing me "to proceed with the

"completion of the works on the Royal Charters "of Scotland, as previously authorized by the "Board and suspended by Order 3 June, 1815." I have lost no time in making arrangements for resuming the two principal works which come under the present head; namely, the Abridgment of the Registers of the Great Seal, and the Collection of Select Charters of the Kings of Scotland.

1. Abridgment of the Registers of the Great Seal.

It may be proper here to recall to the notice of the Board, that this work was intended to embrace an exact but brief account of every Charter remaining on Record in the Registers of the Great Seal, from its present commencement in the reign of King Robert Bruce, down, perhaps, to the end of the reign of King James the Sixth; exhibiting the Charters of each reign exactly in the order of their respective dates, without any regard to their accidental transposition in the existing Record. A printed Specimen of the work was formerly submitted to the Board, and received their approbation. But since the date of the late Order above referred to, I have again given to it the best consideration in my power, in the view chiefly of preserving all that is valuable or curious, to the exclusion of superfluous and uninstructive matter. In the general structure of the Abridgment I have not found it necessary to make any

important change, but in several more minute details it has received some improvement, and in technical arrangement it has been rendered somewhat less bulky than before. A specimen of the work, in this altered state, is herewith submitted to the Board.

In my letter addressed to the Secretary on the 12th of June last, I stated that I had for a considerable time been endeavouring to discover a person competent by general knowledge, as well as professional skill, to conduct and execute this important work, and that I had been fortunate enough to secure the services of a gentleman whom I could venture to recommend as equal to the undertaking. During the period of this Report the gentleman to whom I then alluded has been diligently employed in examining the draft of the Abridgment formerly made, in collating it throughout with the original Record, and in correcting and adapting it to the plan that has been ultimately considered by me as the most perfect. Other hands will be employed in continuing the Abridgments, and particularly one of the gentlemen who have been hitherto chiefly engaged on the Parliamentary Records. Some time may probably elapse before the printing of this work can be conveniently carried on in a regular progress.

2. Collection of Royal Charters, &c.

5. Extract from Statement of Expenses incurred on account of his Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom, for the year ending April 1, 1825.

To Robert Pitcairn, W. S., for his services in the Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal, and Correcting for the Press the Transcript of the reigns of King James I., II., &c. from July 1, 1824, to April 1, 1825,——£150.

T. T.

APPENDIX.

MR. THOMSON'S QUARTERLY REPORTS, LVIII to XCIV.

January—March, 1822, to January—March, 1831.

FIFTY-EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January, February, March, 1822.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Repairing decayed Records.*—On this subject it may be sufficient to state, that numerous Papers of a Parliamentary nature have been cleaned and assorted. These have all a reference to the period between the Revolution in 1688, and the Union in 1707.

2. *Indexes to Books of Records.*—The operation of digesting the Index of Inhibitions for the last forty years into alphabetical order has been completed, and it is now undergoing a very careful revision and collation with the Record and the relative Minute Books. When this revision is completed, which will occupy about three months, it is intended to print a few copies, not exceeding six, for the use of the Public. But on this head I may refer to the Annual Report for 1821, and to my Fifty-sixth Quarterly Report.

3. *Recovery of lost Records.*—A volume of the Register of Secret Council, for the years 1567, 1569, to which repeated allusion has been made in the Annual Reports, has at last been ascertained to be in existence, and I hope very soon to be able to state that it has been restored to public custody.

II. *Retours of Services.*

The Chronological Abridgment of Retours subsequent to 1700 has been brought down to the end of the year 1790.

III. *Royal Charters.*

No proceedings of importance relative to this class of Records have been as yet resumed; but I have reason to believe, that the prosecution of the intended Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal is much wished for.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

In the further prosecution of the first volume of the Parliamentary Collection, such proceedings as remain of the reigns of Alexander III., Margaret, John Balliol, and Robert I., have been sent to the press. Of these, several of the originals are preserved in the Chapter House; and I hope soon to avail myself of an opportunity of collating the printed sheets with these originals, and of purging the errors of transcription in the copies formerly made for this work.

The Supplement to the Ninth Volume of the Work particularly mentioned in the last Quarterly Report has been completed, making an addition of twelve sheets to those formerly reported. The Chronological Table, and the Indexes of Persons and Places, are in progress at the press, and the volume will be ready for publication about the middle of May.

Of the Tenth Volume, thirty-five sheets (140 pages) have been printed. These contain the Proceedings of the Parliaments of William, holden in 1696 and 1698. It is intended to embrace in this volume all the remaining Parliaments of Scotland, down to the accession of Queen Anne. The Parliaments of her reign down to the period of the Union, and the final dissolution of the Scottish Legislature in 1707, will afford sufficient matter for a separate volume.

THO. THOMSON.

FIFTY-NINTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1822.

I. *General Register House.*

Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—The collation and correction of the Alphabetical Index of the General Register of Inhibitions have been in constant progress, and the plan of printing a few copies of it for the use of the Public, in their researches at the Register House, will be speedily commenced.

2. *Seisins.*—The arrangements which have been going on for some time, will enable me, I trust, to commence the great work of the Abridgment of the Registers of Seisins in the course of a few months. The number of persons required as transcribers must be very considerable, as the work must embrace a chronological arrangement of between two or three thousand volumes of Record.

II. *Retours of Services.*

The Chronological Table of Retours has been continued down to the end of the year 1795.

III. *Royal Charters.*

No progress.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The Table and Indexes of Volume the Ninth having been finished soon after the date of the last Report, that volume was published in the month of May.

The Tenth Volume has been in regular progress, and has advanced from pp. 141 to 228, being twenty-two sheets. These contain the Proceedings of Parliaments in 1698, 1700, and 1701.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTIETH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1822.

I. *General Register House.*

Indexes.—Inhibitions.—The preparatory corrections of the Index to the General Register of Inhibitions having been completed, the work has been sent to press, and several sheets printed. Of this work only twenty-four copies are thrown off, a number sufficient for the strictly official use to which it is destined.

II. *Retours of Services.*

The Chronological Table of Retours has been continued to the end of the year 1802.''

III. *Royal Charters.*

No progress. But some valuable contributions of ancient Royal Charters have been received.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

In the correction and adjustment of the materials of the First Volume a great deal of time and labour have been bestowed; and though a great deal in minute critical matters remains to be done, yet I do not hope to be able to add any thing very important to the collections that are now in my possession.

The Tenth Volume has been in progress at the press, and has advanced from p. 228 to p. 300, which nearly completes the Proceedings of the Parliament 1701, with which this volume is intended to conclude. The Appendix to this volume containing the Minutes of Parliaments 1696, 1698, and 1700, has also been in progress, and nine sheets (36 pages) have been printed.

THO. THOMSON.

Sixty-First Quarterly Report to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1822.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions*—Further progress at the press has been made on the Alphabetical Index of the General Register of Inhibitions. The work is calculated to extend to about four hundred pages.

2. *Seisins.*—I have at length been enabled to commence the Chronological Abridgment of the Registers of Seisins, general and particular. As the first stage in the progress of the work, it has been found expedient to transcribe the Minute Books of the General Register for the last forty years in county arrangement; reserving for subsequent operations the alteration of the Minutes of Seisins into a more convenient form, and the addition of such further notices taken from the Record as shall appear necessary to the perfection of the work, as a guide to the searches of individuals.

II. *Retours of Services.*

The Chronological Table has been continued to the end of the year 1813.

III. *Royal Charters.*

No progress.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The text of Volume the Tenth has been concluded by the addition of 44 pages, making in all 344 pages. Further progress has been made in the Appendix to this volume by the addition of twenty-four sheets, containing Minutes of the Parliaments 1700 and 1701, and the Acts and Orders of the Parliamentary Commissioners for settling the Communication of Trade, 1699—1701. A few sheets more will complete this part of the volume.

Since the date of the last Report the Eleventh Volume has been put to the press, and twenty-five sheets (100 pages) have

been printed. This volume is intended to contain the whole of the Proceedings of Parliament from the accession of Queen Anne to the Union of the Kingdoms in 1707; and will thus terminate the whole series of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland.

THOMAS THOMSON.

SIXTY-SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1823.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—Regular progress has been made in printing the Alphabetical Index of Inhibitions, and in a few months the work will be completed at press.

2. *Seisins.*—Regular and rapid progress has been made in the subdivision, arrangement, and transcription of the Minute Books of Seisins. The abridgment is intended to commence with the year 1781, and to come down in one series to the end of the year 1820, where a second series will begin.

II. *Retours of Services.*

During the period of this Report the person employed in framing and transcribing the Chronological Table of Retours has been necessarily occupied in the transcription of materials for the Eleventh Volume of the Parliamentary Collection.

III. *Royal Charters.*

No progress.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The Tenth Volume has been completed at press, by the addition of four sheets of Appendix, with the usual Table and Indexes.

Further progress has been made in the Eleventh Volume; ten sheets have been finished at press, containing the Proceedings of Parliament in 1703 and 1704.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTY-THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1823.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—The Alphabetical Index to the General Register of Inhibitions is now far advanced at the press, and will be finished in a few weeks. As soon as it is completed, the corresponding Index to the particular Registers of Inhibitions will be proceeded on, and sent to press, after having undergone a careful revision.

2. *Seisins.*—Rapid progress continues to be made in the preparatory steps towards the formation and completion of the Abridgment of Seisins. It is a work of great labour, and which demands the most unremitting attention to minute accuracy.

II. *Retours of Services.*

The Chronological Table has been continued to the end of the year 1817.

III. *Royal Charters.*

No progress.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The Eleventh Volume of the Parliamentary Collection has been continued at press from p. 141 to p. 240 (25 sheets), containing the proceedings of Parliaments in 1704 and 1705. The Appendix to this volume has also been commenced; and the Minutes of Parliament 1702 and part of 1703 have been printed (24 pages).

THO. THOMSON.

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SIXTY-FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1823.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—The Alphabetical Index to the General Register of Inhibitions has been finished at press. It is a volume extending to 370 pages, and promises to answer completely the purposes of its compilation. Hitherto a search in the Minute Books of this Register for a period of forty years could not have been completed with the utmost industry in less than three or four days, and that, too, at the hazard of mistakes and oversights. By means of this Index the same search may be made in one or two minutes—indeed, as speedily as a word can be traced in any ordinary vocabulary. A copy of the work is herewith submitted to the inspection of the Board.

2. *Seisins.*—So much progress has been made in the transcription and collation of Minute Books, on the plan of county arrangement, that a further step may now be taken, by changing the form of the original minutes into one more convenient for speedy reference, as well as for the introduction of all such additional notices as the nature of the work seems to require. A specimen of the work in this state is herewith submitted to the Board.

II. *Retours of Services.*

The Chronological Table has now been brought down to the end of the year 1822. I have directed the whole to be bound up in regular volumes, for the use of those who resort to the Office of the Director of Chancery for searches in this Record; and provision has been made in these volumes for the continuation of the work under each county, and class of Retours, for many years to come. The addition to the work of a set of Alphabetical Indexes of Persons, similar to those in the printed Abridgment of Retours, would afford much facility in the consultation of this Record; but at present I am not prepared to recommend it to the immediate sanction of the Record Commissioners.

III. *Royal Charters.*

No progress.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The Eleventh Volume has been carried on at press from p. 241 to p. 340 (25 sheets), and contains Proceedings of Parliament in 1705 and 1706. It may be proper here to mention, that at this part of the work (November 27, 1706, p. 337,) the regular Record of Parliament terminates abruptly, and for the remaining Acts and other Proceedings of this last and most important session of the Parliament of Scotland, recourse must now be had to the original Minutes and other "Warrants," or rather to such of them as have been preserved.

The defect to which I refer has been long known and deplored, and to this concluding portion of the present compilation I have looked forward with great anxiety, as implying the exercise of a discretion in the selection and arrangement of its materials, which has not been required at any former stage, excepting in some parts of the Proceedings of those Parliaments in the reign of King Charles I., which were rescinded at the Restoration, and of which the Record has been lost or destroyed. In the portion of the work at which I am now arrived, I shall endeavour to follow as closely as possible the plan that has been adopted by the Clerk Register and his Deputies in the formation of the Books of Parliament from the period of the Revolution; and taking the original Minutes of Procedure as the groundwork, every Act or Decree of Parliament, of which the original or an authenticated copy is preserved, shall be introduced immediately after the particular minute to which it relates. This, however, will still leave many *hiatus;* for in many instances neither any copy of the regular Act or Decree has been found, nor in cases of Petition has the original Petition with the deliverance of Parliament been preserved; and in those cases where the Petition and the original deliverance still exist, but without any copy of the regular Decree proceeding on these documents, I shall deem it more suitable to the conduct of the present work in all its other parts, to move those Documents into the Appendix, without attempting to convert them (however easily it might be done) into that technical form of Decrees, under which alone they ever appear in the Books of Parliament.

I had looked forward to the last three months as a period within which I should have been able to put the finishing hand to a great portion of the First Volume of this work. I regret to say, however, that for many months past I have laboured under a state of indisposition, accompanied by a degree of languor and weakness very little suited to the successful conduct of a work in which no effectual progress can be made but by great and continued exertions.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTY-FIFTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1823.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—Since the completion of the Index applicable to the General Register of Inhibitions from 1781 to 1820, regular progress has been made in the correction of the corresponding Indexes to the particular Registers of Inhibitions for the several counties of Scotland; and the work has been sent to press, to be printed in the same form as that of the General Register. At the same time arrangements have been made for introducing the latter into immediate use at the Register House, on payment of a moderate fee by such as choose to avail themselves of this facility in their searches.

2. *Seisins.*—In the compilation of the Abridgment of Seisins, regular advances have been made, and with as much rapidity as the nature of the work admits of. After various experiments and consultations with practical men as to the best form of the work, and as to the extent of detail which it ought to embrace, a plan has been finally adopted, of the excellence of which I entertain a confident opinion. It is calculated to convey the most complete and accurate information of the contents of every instrument entered on the Record, and in that respect will greatly exceed in value the ordinary Minute Books of Seisins; and from its particular form, connected as it will ultimately be with Alphabetical Tables, the ease and certainty it

will afford in searches of this class cannot fail to be highly prized, and to prove of eminent utility. At present a regular search for forty years in the general and particular Registers of Seisins, as applicable to a single estate or portion of land, cannot be accomplished with tolerable care in less than ten days or a fortnight. By means of the work now in progress, it is supposed that the same search might be made, without a chance of error or oversight, in greatly less than half an hour. A small specimen of the work is herewith submitted to the Board.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

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IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Since the date of the last Report the Eleventh Volume has made considerable advances: twenty-nine sheets (116 pages) have been added, running from p. 341 to p. 456. This portion of the work has been compiled according to the method described in my last Report; and on examining it several *hiatus* of the kind mentioned in that Report will be observed, but nearly all of them will admit of being supplied, in *substance*, by the documents reserved for the Appendix. In the remaining portion of the work, which will extend to about thirty pages, these defects will be more numerous, and the means of supplying them much less complete.

To the Appendix of this volume twelve sheets have been added, (from p. 73 to p. 120,) containing the Minutes of the Parliament 1705, and a part of those Proceedings in the Parliament of 1706 and 1707, which have been above alluded to.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTY-SIXTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1824.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—Considerable progress has been made in printing the Indexes to the County Registers of Inhibitions. Those for Aberdeen, Argyle, and Ayr, have been completed.

2. *Seisins.*—Besides a great additional progress in the preparatory business of transcription and collation of Minute Books, considerable advances have been made in framing and correcting, on the plan now finally adopted, the Abridgment of Seisins for the County of Aberdeen and the connected County of Kincardine. In the execution of this work it is found absolutely necessary to examine with care the complete Record of every Instrument as it stands on the Registers; for the Minute Books are in many things defective. The labour required is of course very heavy, but the result will be a work, on the accuracy of which it will be quite safe to pledge the characters of those who are concerned in its formation. In the course of the ensuing quarter I trust that the Abridgment for Aberdeenshire will be printed, and that it will afford a satisfactory specimen of the work in its present state.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

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IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The text of the Eleventh Volume has been completed, by the addition of nine sheets, which, with those already reported, make in all 492 pages. In this concluding portion of the work the defects arising from the state of the original Warrants are numerous, but their importance will be found to be much dimi-

nished by means of the corresponding documents in the Appendix.

To the Appendix fifteen sheets have been added, (from p. 121 to p. 180.) These contain the remainder of the Proceedings of the Parliament 1707, above alluded to, and a part of the Proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to treat for an Union between the kingdoms of Scotland and England, both in the years 1702, 1703, and in the year 1706. These have been considered to be a suitable accompaniment to the Proceedings of the Parliament of Scotland it its last sessions.

A few sheets more will complete the Appendix, and the volume, with its usual Table and Indexes of Persons and Places, may be in readiness for publication in the month of May.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTY-SEVENTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1824.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Inhibitions.*—Since the date of the last Report, the Indexes of Inhibitions for the County Registers of Berwick, Bute, Caithness, and Dumbarton have been printed.

2. *Seisins.*—The revision and final correction of the Abridgment of Seisins for Aberdeenshire have been concluded, and the work has been sent to press. No part of it is yet thrown off, but a few sheets are in proof, and copies of those are herewith submitted to the inspection of the Board. In the preparatory operation of transcription of the Minute Books much progress has been made, and as the plan and form of the Abridgment have now been adjusted, the transcripts are now made in a form suited to that of the work in its completed state, into which the additional matter to be derived from collation with the Register Books may be afterwards introduced with the greater facility.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

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IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The Appendix to Volume Eleventh of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland has been finished, by the addition of seven sheets, containing the remainder of the Proceedings of the Parliamentary Commissioners for the Union of the Kingdoms. The Tables and Indexes have also been finished at the press, and the volume has been published in the usual manner.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTY-EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom: July—September, 1824.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Registers of Inhibitions.*—In the printing of the Alphabetical Indexes to the Particular Registers of Inhibitions for the several Counties constant advances have been made.

In these Indexes, as in the Abridgment of Retours, the Counties of Scotland are arranged in Alphabetical order; and in the regular process of the work, those for the Shires of Dumfries, Edinburgh, Elgin, and Fife have been completed at Press.

2. *Abridgment of Seisins.*—Of the nature and importance of this work I have had occasion to speak in my former Reports. Its progress has been constant and rapid, and under the Order of the Board of the 28th of June last, I have been enabled to urge its advancement with increased vigour. Independently of the preparatory measures of mere transcription formerly specified, nearly 14,000 recorded Instruments had been examined and abridged at the date of the last Report, and to that number have

since been added above 7000, making a total of 21,730; and of the extent of this labour some idea may be formed by stating, that these Abridgments, although in a very condensed form, would occupy a folio volume of nearly 900 pages. The progress hitherto made in printing the Abridgment has been slow, owing to accidental causes; but the printers have engaged that in a short time they shall furnish four or five sheets a week. Of the Abridgment for Aberdeenshire eleven sheets are now printed.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

Under the Order of the Board of the 21st of June last, directing me "to proceed with the completion of the works on the "Royal Charters of Scotland, as previously authorised by the "Board and suspended by Order of the 3d June, 1815,"—I have lost no time in making arrangements for resuming the two principal works which come under the present head; namely, the Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal, and the Collection of Select Charters of the Kings of Scotland.

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—It may be proper here to recall to the notice of the Board that this work was intended to embrace an exact but brief account of every Charter remaining on record in the Registers of the Great Seal, from its present commencement in the reign of King Robert Bruce, down, perhaps, to the end of the reign of King James the Sixth, exhibiting the Charters of each reign exactly in the order of their respective dates, without any regard to their accidental transposition in the existing Record. A printed specimen of the work was formerly submitted to the Board and received their approbation. But since the date of the late Order above referred to, I have again given to it the best consideration in my power, in the view chiefly of preserving all that is valuable or curious, to the exclusion of superfluous and uninstructive matter. In the general structure of the Abridgment I have not found it necessary to make any important change; but in several more minute details it has received some improvement, and in technical arrangement it has been rendered somewhat less bulky than before.

A specimen of the work, in this altered state, is herewith submitted to the Board.

In my letter addressed to the Secretary on the 12th of June last, I stated, that I had for a considerable time been endeavouring to discover a person competent by general knowledge, as well as professional skill, to conduct and execute this important work, and that I had been fortunate enough to secure the services of a gentleman whom I could venture to recommend as equal to the undertaking. During the period of this Report the gentleman to whom I then alluded has been diligently employed in examining the draft of the Abridgment formerly made, in collating it throughout with the original Record, and in correcting and adapting it to the plan that has been ultimately considered by me as the most perfect. Other hands will be employed in continuing the Abridgment, and particularly one of the gentlemen who has been hitherto chiefly engaged on the Parliamentary Records. Some time may probably elapse before the printing of this work can be conveniently carried on in a regular progress.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.*—On the subject of this undertaking I shall refrain at present from entering into any details. It is one to which I am anxious to devote a considerable portion of my time, as soon as the Compilation of the more ancient Parliamentary Proceedings and Statutes, which are to form the First Volume of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, has been brought to a close. In the meantime, however, I have availed myself of every opportunity of obtaining and amassing the materials for this work; and in the transcription of original documents have availed myself of some of the very able hands who have been so long employed on the Parliamentary Records.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland from the return of King James I. in 1424, to the Union of the kingdoms of Scotland and England in 1707, having been completed in ten volumes, (Vol. II.—XI.) There remain for the entire completion of the work only the First Volume, containing whatever of a Parliamentary nature prior in date to 1424 can be now collected, and the Twelfth Volume, comprehending Indexes of Matters to the whole. On the progress of the former, which rests entirely with

myself, I shall abstain from troubling the Board with any partial statements until the text of the volume has been brought more nearly to a close. For the compilation of the latter I have very lately secured the assistance of a gentleman of the Scottish bar, who, I confidently trust, will be found fully adequate to the undertaking. Its importance I consider as very great, and the labour, as well as skill, required for its successful execution, are of no trifling magnitude.

THO. THOMSON.

SIXTY-NINTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1824.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Registers of Inhibitions.*—The Indexes to the particular Registers of Inhibitions continue to advance regularly at the press; and those for the shires of Forfar, Haddington, Inverness, Kincardine, Kinross, Kircudbright, and Lanark have been completed.

2. *Abridgment of Seisins.*—The progress made in this work has been steady, and as rapid as the number of persons now employed on it renders at all desirable. Since the date of the last Report 7729 recorded instruments have been abridged, making in all nearly 29,450; and thirty-one printed sheets of Seisins in Aberdeenshire have been added, making in all forty-two sheets.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the revision and correcting of the Abridgment formerly framed, a constant and steady progress has been made, and some additional sheets have been set up by the printer, for the purpose of more

deliberate consideration before the work shall be finally committed to the press.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

In the preparation of the First Volume of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, as well as in the Compilation of Indexes, continued progress has been making.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTIETH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1825.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. The printing of the Indexes to the Particular Registers of Inhibitions has been brought nearly to a close. Since the date of the last Report those for the shires of Linlithgow, Nairn, Orkney, Peebles, Perth, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, and Roxburgh have been printed.

2. *Register of Adjudications.*—As the Indexes of Inhibitions have been advancing towards completion, another work of nearly similar form has been in progress of preparation for the press. Several years ago an Index to the Register of Abbreviates of Adjudication was begun, and very considerable advances were made in its compilation. The plan of the work has been since new modelled, and brought to resemble very nearly that of the Index to the General Register of Inhibitions, and though a considerable time must be devoted to its revisal and correction, I have reason to hope that it may be sent to the press and completed in less than another year.

3. *Abridgment of Seisins.*—The compilation of this work has proceeded with remarkable steadiness; the number of recorded instruments abridged within the period of the present Report being 7657, making a total of 37,116. During the same period fifty sheets have been printed, of which thirty-two contain the remainder of Aberdeenshire, from 1781 to 1820, making in all

seventy-four sheets; and eighteen contain the Seisins of the connected shire of Kincardine for the same period.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the revision of the Abridgment formerly made, and the preparation of it for the press, as well as in the continuation of the Abridgment, constant and satisfactory progress has been made.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.*—Some valuable materials have been obtained and transcribed for this intended work; but as yet I have been unable to devote to it that degree of attention which it will require.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland.—In the remaining branches of this work also continued progress has been made.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April 1—June 15, 1825.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Registers of Inhibitions.*—The Indexes of the Particular Registers of Inhibitions for the shires of Selkirk, Stirling, Sutherland and Wigton have been printed, and with these have been finished at the press the collection of Indexes to those Registers, from the year 1781 to the year 1820 inclusive. A set of these Indexes is now transmitted for the inspection of the Board. The work is already introduced into actual use; and I have the satisfaction of thinking, that this, in the same manner as the Index to the General Register of Inhibitions, which has been accessible to the public for the last

eighteen months, will be found to afford a vast facility as well as security in the ordinary business of Searches in the Records of Land Rights.

2. *Register of Adjudications.*—Since the completion of the Indexes of Inhibitions a more undivided attention has been given to the revisal and correction of the Index of Adjudications; and I feel assured that it may be completely prepared for the press in the course of three or four months.

3. *Abridgment of Seisins.*—During the period of this Report about 4430 entries have been added to the Abridgment, making in all nearly 42,000; and during the same period fifty-four sheets have been finished at the press; viz. of

Edinburgh	16 sheets.
Ayr	12
Fife	13
Forfar	7
Perth	6

In the first instance it was deemed expedient to print the whole Abridgment of the connected shires of Aberdeen and Kincardine, as a fair specimen of the nature of the work, and a sufficient test of its probable utility; and in that view, as well as for the purpose of eliciting any hints for improvement that might occur, I submitted a copy of the Abridgment for Aberdeenshire to the examination of the Society of Writers to the Signet. In consequence of this communication the Society has recently transmitted to me a copy of its proceedings, and as the opinion of that intelligent body confirms the anticipations that had been formed as to the great practical utility of the work, I trust its perusal may prove satisfactory to the Board. It accompanies this Report, together with a copy of the Abridgment for Aberdeenshire.

II. *Retours of Services.*

In order to render the Chronological Tables of Retours, from 1700 downwards to the present time, compiled under the authority of the Board, still more useful to the public, I intend, as originally proposed, to compile Alphabetical Indexes to the work, which will not be of difficult execution, and which will render the later and more bulky portion of this Record greatly

more accessible than at present. This I am the more anxious to accomplish in the view of an intended transfer of these Records from the Office of the Director of Chancery into the general Repository of the Records under the care of the Lord Clerk Register.

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the course of revision and correction of this Abridgment, the Registers of James I. and James II. and a great part of those of James III. have been carefully gone over; and the compilation of that for the reign of James V. has been in constant progress. As a preparatory measure, to secure the exact chronological order of the work, it has been found necessary to frame a general Table of the whole Record, from its present commencement down to the reign of his present Majesty; and in this labour a part of the time comprehended in this, as well as in the preceding Report, has been usefully employed.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.*—Excepting in the contribution of some ancient and curious documents, no further advances have been made in the preparation of this intended work. It is my purpose to take an early opportunity of arranging all the miscellaneous Royal and unrecorded Charters that have been from time to time contributed from various quarters, and to frame an exact Chronological Table of the whole, under the reigns to which they respectively belong.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

I trust I shall soon have it in my power to report the completion of the text to Vol. I., so far as it consists of what are to be received as genuine Proceedings of the Scottish Legislature. When this portion has been completed, the other parts, of a subsidiary nature, will occupy comparatively a very short time to bring them through the press. The compilation of Indexes of Matters continues also in progress.

THO. THOMSON.

EXTRACT from the MINUTES of a GENERAL MEETING of the SOCIETY of WRITERS to the SIGNET.

" *General Meeting.*

" 30th May, 1825.

" COLIN MACKENZIE, Esquire, Deputy Keeper.

" Mr. Storie, from the Committee on Records and Indexes, gave in the following Report, which having been read was approved of.

" 14 April, 1825.

" REPORT of the Committee of the Society of Writers to the Signet on the State of the Records.

" Your Committee beg leave to report that there has been laid before them, by order of Thomas Thomson, Esquire, Deputy Register, the printed Abridgment of the Register of Sasines, General and Particular, in so far as relates to Aberdeenshire, from January 1781 to December 1820, inclusive, being a period of forty years.

" That Mr. Thomson also communicated to your Committee that he was proceeding as fast as he could with a similar Abridgment of the Registers of Sasines, &c. for the other Counties in Scotland.

" Your Committee have examined the volume laid before them with the utmost attention, and take the opportunity of stating to the Society their highest approbation of the very able manner in which it has been framed by the directions of the Deputy Register, whose attention to this national object has been unwearied and deserving of the greatest praise, and whose labours they most earnestly hope will be continued till a similar Abridgment of the Register of Sasines, &c. for all the other Counties of Scotland is accomplished.

" Your Committee are aware that this great undertaking cannot be carried on without much expense, but when it is considered that the Records of this kingdom, which have hitherto been inaccessible, unless at a great expense of time and money, will be laid open and rendered accessible at a reasonable charge, and without almost any waste of time,—they hope that the aid of government will not be refused to complete so great and meritorious a work.

" Your Committee beg leave to submit that the Society should express their sentiments on this great national work, and also the high sense they entertain of the ability with which the plan has been formed and the work executed by the Deputy Register, so far as it has gone, and that they should use all the means in their power to represent in the proper quarter the great magnitude and utility of the work, and the necessity of ample funds being granted for completing it.

" Your Committee further report, that in the view of making an Index to the Abridgment, it will be sufficient to insert the name of the person infeft, or in whose favour a renunciation is granted, and the leading name of the lands; as these will, in their opinion, answer all necessary purposes.

(Signed) A. Storie, Convener.

" The Society think it proper at the same time to express in the strongest manner their admiration of the volume now on the table, and their sense of the merits of the very able and accurate officer to whom the country is indebted (among his other important labours in the department of the Records), for the commencement of this most valuable and useful work, thus far happily executed; and the Society, entertaining the anxious wish that it may be completed with as little delay as possible, request the Deputy Keeper respectfully to communicate their sentiments to the Keeper of the Signet, in the hope that in his capacity of Lord Register his lordship will use the means in his power for the accomplishment of their wishes.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Meeting,

By John Finlayson,

Extractor to the Writers to the Signet.

30th May, 1825."

SEVENTY-SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1825.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *The Registers of Inhibitions, General and Particular.*—Having already reported to the Board the completion of the First Series of Alphabetical Indexes to these Records for a period of forty years, from 1781 to 1820, I now mention them only for the purpose of stating that they have been found to answer completely the ends that were in view in their compilation. In consequence of the facility and certainty of references, and the great dispatch which they are found to afford, they are daily resorted to by all persons employed in searches in this class of Records; and they have already become the source of an additional public revenue, which will very speedily compensate the cost attending their preparation. The continuation of these Indexes down to the latest dates is in constant progress, and will be rendered accessible to the public in a manuscript form; but until at least ten years of a Second Series be completed, it would appear to me to be inexpedient to print any part of it.

2. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—A general revisal of the Alphabetical Index to this Register, (on the compilation of which I have already reported progress,) having been now completed, the work has been put to the press, the number of printed copies being limited, as in the other works of this description, to what seemed sufficient for official use. I trust that in the course of the next year the whole of this First Series, from 1781 to 1820, will be finished and made accessible to the public.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—Since the date of my last Quarterly Report (June 15, 1825,) nearly 3600 instruments have been abridged, making a total at this time of 45,995. During this period forty sheets have been finished at the press, containing the earlier portions of the following Counties:—

Berwick	4
Clackmannan	3
Stirling	4
Lanark	8
Renfrew	15
Glasgow, Barony	6
	40 sheets.

II. *Retours of Services.*

* * * *

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The revisal of the Abridgment of the Charters of King James III. has been completed, and that of the Charters of James IV. has advanced as far as the fourteenth year of that King's reign, A.D. 1502; and continued progress has been made in the compilation of the Abridgment for the reign of James V. In its progress downwards this Record becomes rapidly more and more voluminous, and the advancement of the present work becomes apparently, not really, less rapid than in its earlier stages.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.*—I here allude to this projected work merely to state, that, although I have not yet made any regular arrangement for its compilation, yet there is a constant accumulation of materials in progress, which will ultimately enable me to render it an important accession to the materials of Scottish History and Jurisprudence.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Under this head I beg leave to state that I have had every reason to be satisfied with the industry and zeal of the gentleman who has been induced to undertake the preparation of Indexes to the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland. The work is indeed a most arduous one, and must require considerable time as well as great labour for its successful accomplishment. The earlier volumes of the Acts, from the greater number and variety of matters which they embrace, present of course by far the greatest difficulties in execution.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1825.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—The Alphabetical Index to this Record for forty years preceding 1821 will occupy a volume in folio of nearly 400 pages. About a fourth part of the work has been printed, and I expect the completion of the whole within eight months from this time.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—Since the date of the last Report an addition of 5,886 entries has been made to the Abridgment of these Records, making in all 51,881; and during the same period thirty-nine sheets have been printed relative to the following Counties:—

Argyll	3
Dumbarton	2
Ayr	6
Banff	2
Dumfries	3
Kircudbright	4
Haddington	2
Linlithgow	2
Elgin and Forres	2
Inverness	2
Ross	2
Kinross	2
Peebles	1
Roxburgh	5
Wigton	1
	39 sheets.

In the conduct of this very great work it has been found highly conducive to general accuracy to carry on the whole simultaneously, or nearly so, rather than to complete particular Counties in succession.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the revisal and correction of this Compilation farther progress has been made, and has now arrived nearly to the end of the reign of James IV. And in the preparation of that of James V. constant progress has been making. From the great nicety which this work requires in all the details of execution, as well as in consideration of the great interest attached to it, I foresee that, under the superintendence of the same gentleman, a second revisal will be expedient, in order to bring the whole into one uniform and orderly state.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.* * * * *

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

In the compilation of Indexes to those Records the most strenuous efforts continue to be made by the gentleman to whom this work has been entrusted.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1826.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—The printing of the Alphabetical Index to this Record has been in regular progress, and 200 pages have been finished at the press, which will constitute fully one-half of this First Series of the work. A copy of this portion of the volume is herewith submitted to the Board.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—In the formation of the Abridgment

of this Record 4838 entries have been added, and forty-two sheets have been printed, viz.

Ayr	11
Edinburgh	15
Fife	16
	42 sheets.

The formation of the Abridgment has been somewhat retarded by the loss of two of the persons employed on the work, one having died and another having quitted this employment.

A complete set of the portion of the work now printed, making in all 265 sheets, is herewith submitted to the Board.

II. *Retours of Services.*

In a former Report I suggested the propriety of framing an Alphabetical Index to the Abridgment of Retours from 1701 to the present time. Hitherto I have not found a person to whom this Compilation could be confided, and I have been the less anxious to urge the execution of this measure, from the difficulty that has existed in accommodating the several classes of persons employed under the Record Commission, which cannot be removed until we obtain possession of the new additional apartments at the General Register House. This, however, is an obstacle which will now be removed in a very short time.

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—After completing the revisal of the Abridgment for the reign of James IV. a second more general revisal of the work from the reign of James I. has been begun, and is now in rapid progress. In this more improved state, the Proof sheets of the Abridgment for the reign of James I. (the Record of which is now in a very imperfect state,) will be transmitted herewith for the consideration of the Board.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.*—The gradual accumulation of materials for this work has now rendered it necessary to arrange them into a regular chronological Calendar or Table, in which considerable progress has been already made.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

It is a mortifying disappointment to me that I cannot yet report the completion of the First Volume of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland. The period for that purpose is not, I trust, far distant; but in the mean time I have thought it better not to fatigue the Board with the minute details of progress, or with the unavailing expression of regret for the delays which have attended this part of my undertaking.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-FIFTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1826.

I. *General Register House.*

Abridgments and Indexes.—1. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—The Alphabetical Index to this Record, from 1781 to 1820, is advancing to its close. It will constitute a volume of about 320 pages, (somewhat less than I had calculated,) of which 284 pages are now printed. Before the end of the current quarter I expect that it will be completed and accessible to the public in the manner originally intended.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—Every exertion continues to be made to advance this work with as much rapidity as is compatible with the extreme accuracy that is essentially requisite even in its most minute details. During the period of the present Report 5185 entries have been added to the Abridgment, making a total of 61,904. During the same period the progress of the work at the press has been somewhat retarded by the indisposition of the person who has the immediate superintendence of this department; but to the 264 sheets formerly reported and submitted to the inspection of the Board, twenty-eight have since been added, viz.—

Edinburgh	18 sheets.
Haddington	3
Linlithgow	3
Forfar	4

II. *Retours of Services.*

The intended Alphabetical Index to the Abridgment of Retours subsequent in date to 1700, has not yet been begun.

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the formation of this Abridgment, and in the careful revision and correction of the earlier part of the work formerly compiled, a constant and steady progress has been made. It is now advanced to the end of the year 1475, or the sixteenth year of the reign of James III. The compilation has also been continued to the year 1540, subject of course to a similar revision, but framed on a plan uniform with that now adopted for the earlier periods, and not therefore likely to require much alteration.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—To this intended Collection some valuable additions have been made; and during the interval of other more urgent operations, a considerable progress has been made in framing a Chronological Table of all the materials hitherto collected and transcribed.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Since the date of the last Quarterly Report a discovery has been made which must be regarded as of very high importance. It was, on probable grounds, supposed that the official Record of the Proceedings of the Parliaments of Scotland from the year 1639 to the year 1651 had perished, or been destroyed; and on recurring to the Fifth and Sixth Volumes of the work published under the sanction of His Majesty's Commissioners, and to the statements given in the Prefaces to these Volumes, it will be seen that the Parliamentary Proceedings of that period have been compiled from materials, which, though perfectly authentic, were very incomplete, and that of the Acts of those Parliaments not one-third part had been found.

Of the fate of those Records nothing was known, as it should seem, even as early as the year 1661, for it appears even then to have been taken for granted, that, along with many other public Records, they had been lost at sea on the passage from London to Edinburgh: nor does it appear to have been ever suspected or surmised that this particular portion of the Parliamentary Records of Scotland had been withheld, when avowedly the

whole were surrendered at the Restoration. It now appears, however, that this part of the Records had been removed, probably for the purpose of more careful examination, from the Tower to the State Paper Office at Whitehall, and it was there, probably, that a brief analysis and abstract of the Contents was drawn up by William Ryley, who was a Clerk both in the Record Office at the Tower and in the State Paper Office. In that office they appear to have been afterwards completely lost sight of; and the late Mr. Astle, who there discovered a volume of Records, chiefly Parliamentary, of the fourteenth century, which was restored to His Majesty's General Register House in 1793, could not have been aware of the existence of those of the reign of Charles I. when he published Ryley's Abstract of them in the Collection usually called Ayloffe's Calendars. It was only in the course of the late removal of the State Paper Office from Scotland Yard to Great George Street, that the Records in question were observed by Mr. Lemon, the Chief Clerk, and were by him pointed out to me as deserving of examination. They were found to consist of four large volumes in folio, and to contain a Record of the Proceedings of the Parliaments of Scotland from May 15, 1639, to March 8, 1650, and having been completely satisfied as to their authenticity, the Lord Clerk Register immediately addressed an application to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, for authority to have these Books removed to the General Register House at Edinburgh. The propriety of this application having been at once admitted, an order was forthwith granted for their delivery to the Lord Register, in pursuance of which the Books were transferred into the General Register House; and on an application by his Lordship to the Court of Session, they were carefully inspected and examined by a Committee of the Judges, who reported it as their opinion "that the Books in question are genuine and authentic Records of the Parliaments whose Proceedings they contain, and that they ought to be deposited by the Lord Clerk Register in His Majesty's General Register House, among the other Public Records of the Kingdom." An Order of the Court to that effect has accordingly been given, and a copy of the whole procedure I have thought it fit to annex to the present Report.*

* [*See* Min. Bk. *vol.* ix. *p.* 135.]

On examining the contents of these newly discovered Records, and on comparing them with the contents of the Fifth and Sixth Volumes of the work printed under the authority of His Majesty's Commissioners, I have no hesitation in offering it as my opinion, that these two volumes ought to be withdrawn, and replaced by four others; which, not to disturb the series, might be denominated Volume V. Part First and Part Second, and Volume VI. Part First and Part Second. Of Volume Fifth, as it now stands, the first 246 pages, containing the Acts of the Parliament 1625, and those of several Conventions of the Estates in the years 1625, 1630, 1631, and 1632, would remain unaltered. The subsequent part of that volume, from page 246 to page 683, which contains all the original and authentic documents I was formerly enabled to exhibit as a continued series of the Proceedings of the Parliament 1639, 1640, and 1641, it would be requisite entirely to remodel and reprint. The quantity of entirely new and additional matter to be obtained from the newly discovered Record is not large, but its form would be rendered greatly more regular and correct, and various documents which have been introduced into the Text of the Acts, and which are all of an interesting nature, would be drawn into an Appendix, similar to those annexed in the later volumes of the Collection.

Of Volume Sixth, as it now stands, only the first 95 pages and the last 110 pages would remain unaltered. The former contain the Proceedings of two Conventions of the Estates in the years 1643 and 1644, taken from the Record; the latter contain the Proceedings of Parliament from May 15, 1650, to June 6, 1651, of which the Record (if it ever was framed) has not yet been found, and of which no more perfect series than that already printed can yet be compiled. It is to the intermediate period, from June 4, 1644, to March 8, 1650, that the Second, Third, and Fourth Books of the newly discovered Record have been found to relate; which, in the Sixth Volume, occupies only about 480 printed pages, but which the contents of the Record would extend to not less than 1400 pages. This, with the other portions already mentioned, and some necessary Appendixes, could not be contained in less than three volumes of the same bulk nearly with the other volumes of the Collection; and without presuming to offer the following detail as absolutely accurate,

I conceive that the new volumes might be arranged nearly as follows:—

Vol. V. Part 1.—1625—1641 . . . . . 668 pages.
Part 2.—1643—1645, Mar. 8 500
Vol. VI. Part 1.—1645, July 11—1649, Feb 3 . . 550
Part 2.—1649, Feb. 3—1650. 560

On the propriety of proceeding without delay to prepare these volumes for the press, I apprehend that nothing needs to be here said by me. The mere transcription of the MS. will occupy some months, and I should conjecture that with the utmost dispatch, consistent with due attention to accuracy, the whole could not be completed at the press within less than four years. Taking into account the Tables and Indexes and other necessary appendages of such a work, this progress would be at the rate of three sheets per week. I only beg leave to add, that I trust the First Volume of the Acts will be completed before it will be necessary to commence the printing of these Supplemental Volumes.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-SIXTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1826.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—The Alphabetical Index to this Record, from 1781 to 1820, has been completed at press. It forms a volume of 336 pages, of which a copy is herewith transmitted. It is now accessible to those who are employed in searches at the General Register House, for the payment of a small fee: and its great utility begins already to be well appreciated.

2. *General and Particular Registers of Inhibitions.*—A continuation of the Alphabetical Indexes to these Records, from the year 1821 down to the present time, has been begun and is now in progress. It does not appear to me to be expedient to print

any part of this continuation for at least three years to come, when it will extend over ten years; but in the meantime it will be carefully copied and made accessible to the public in manuscript.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—The great and important work of abridging these Records continues to maintain a steady course. Indeed I am bound to say that the assiduity of those engaged in the execution of it has been uniform and most exemplary. Since the date of the last Report 5140 entries have been added to the Abridgment, making a total of 67,044. During the same period fifty-five sheets have been printed, making in all 348 sheets, or 1392 pages. The sheets now added are as follows:—

Clackmannan	2
Stirling.....	5
Lanark.....	10
Perth	15
Renfrew	14
Barony Glasgow	9
	55 sheets.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—From the difficult and laborious nature of this work, the progress made in its execution is unavoidably slow; but its advancement has been constant and nearly uniform. The revisal of the abridged Charters of King James III. has been completed, the whole amounting in number to 981; and that of the reign of King James IV. has advanced to the year 1496, embracing 600 charters. The compilation of the Abridgment of the Charters of James V. has been completed, and that of Queen Mary is now about to commence.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—It has been long well known that several ancient Chartularies, and many very ancient Royal Charters, were preserved in the Archives of the family of

Panmure in Forfarshire, the use of which for the purposes of this Collection appeared to me of so much importance, that I had long determined to examine them on the spot. This I have lately been able to accomplish, and with Mr. Maule's permission I have now in my possession such portions of this curious collection as have appeared to me of probable utility and importance in the compilation of the larger collection of the Ancient Royal Charters of Scotland.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Referring to the statements in my last Report relative to the newly discovered Records of the Parliament of Scotland in the reign of King Charles I., I have only here to add, that I have delayed taking any steps for their transcription until I should receive the orders of the Board.

During the greater part of the period comprehended in this Report my attention has been chiefly directed towards the completion of the First Volume of the Parliamentary Collection, and to the preparation of materials for a preliminary dissertation on the nature of the materials employed in the compilation of the work.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1826.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Register of Inhibitions.*—The continuation of the Indexes to these Records, from the termination of the printed volumes down to the present time, is in progress, and some portions of it will soon be rendered accessible to the public.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—During the period of this Report 6421 entries have been added to the Abridgment of these Records. This makes a total at this date of 73,465. During the same period forty-three sheets have been printed, viz.

Argyll	4
Berwick	3
Bute	1
Dumbarton	4
Dumfries	6
Kirkcudbright	7
Peebles	2
Roxburgh	8
Selkirk	1
Stirling	7
	43 sheets.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the revisal of this Abridgment, on the plan formerly explained, the work has been now brought down to the year 1510. The portion falling within the period of this Report embraces 1195 Royal Grants. Three years of this reign still remain for examination and revisal; during which the total number of Royal Charters on Record amounts to 2158.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—The ancient Charters brought from Panmure, alluded to in my last Report, have been carefully examined, and transcripts of such as were of importance to the proposed Collection have been carefully collated.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Agreeably to the instructions which have been recently communicated to me by his Majesty's Commissioners, I shall proceed without delay in the transcription of the newly discovered Records of the Parliaments of Charles I.

Since the date of my last Report a very interesting and important discovery has been made of a Volume of ancient Scottish Law, compiled about the middle of the fourteenth century, and containing, among other valuable matters, copies of what are usually entitled *Statuta Regis David*, of *Leges Burgorum*, and

of the Statutes of Robert Bruce, 1318. This is decidedly the most ancient collection of the kind that has yet been found in Scotland, and with the exception of the Berne Manuscript, of which the contents are comparatively very scanty, it is, I am of opinion, nearly a century older than any of those which have been employed by me in the preparation of the earlier portion of the First Volume of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland. This volume was recently found in the possession of a private individual in the town of Ayr; and from various entries on some of its blank leaves, it appears to have belonged, in the fifteenth century, to the Gild of the Burgh of Ayr, or to some of the officers of that community. Having had the good fortune to obtain the use of it, I have directed a complete copy of the whole to be made; and although its acquisition has come too late to aid me materially in the earliest part of the Ancient Scottish Statutes, I consider it as most important in fixing some disputed points in the chronology of our laws, and I have the satisfaction of adding that it has tended to confirm the justness of the views by which I had been guided in some of the most difficult and perplexing parts of the work.

The compilation of Indexes of Matters for the whole of the Parliamentary Collection continues in regular progress, and I have every reason to be satisfied with the diligence and ability that are employed in this most laborious work.

THO. THOMSON.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1827.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Register of Inhibitions.*—The compilation of the Alphabetical Index to the General Register of Inhibitions, from 1821 down to the present time, has been completed. It has been carefully transcribed for the purposes of immediate use, and will prove a valuable Supplement to the printed Volume for the preceding forty years.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—During the last quarter, the Abridgment of Seisins has proceeded with increasing celerity. The number of entries added to the work has been 6796, and the total now amounts to 80,261. The progress in printing has been the same as in the preceding quarter, forty-three sheets having been completed, viz.

Ayr	14
Banff	2
Berwick	4
Caithness	2
Cromarty	1
Elgin and Forres	1
Inverness	2
Kinross	2
Orkney and Shetland	9
Nairn	1
Ross	2
Sutherland	1
Wigton	2
	43 sheets.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the last Report it was stated, that the revisal of this Abridgment has advanced to the year 1510. During the period of the present Report the Abridgment of the Charters of the three last years of the reign of James IV. has been examined; and the revisal has been carried on into the reign of James V. to the year 1525. The compilation of the Abridgment of the Charters of Queen Mary has at the same time been in progress, and has advanced to the year 1546.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—Since the date of the last Report no very large or important additions have been made to this Collection. As soon as my attention is disengaged from the completion of the First Volume of Parliamentary Records,

I shall immediately proceed on the arrangement of the materials now accumulated, and shall endeavour to lay before the Board such a selection as shall seem to be deserving of publication.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The lately discovered Volumes of the Parliamentary Record in the reign of Charles I. have been put into the hands of a careful transcriber; and I hope to be able soon to employ another person on the same work. Owing to the ill health of the former, his progress has not hitherto been very considerable.*

The ancient Code of Scottish Law, mentioned in my last Report, has now been carefully transcribed. Its value has not diminished, in my estimation, from a more complete examination of its contents, of which, so far as is yet possible, I am endeavouring to avail myself. In correcting and enlarging that part of our ancient Statutes called *Leges Burgorum*, I shall be able to derive some important aids. It is one of the remarkable peculiarities of this compilation, that, unlike all those formed in the *fifteenth* century, it contains no part of the work called *Regiam Majestatem*,—a circumstance from which, in connection with the evidence afforded by the Berne MS., some reasonable inferences may be drawn as to the true era of that celebrated code. His Majesty's Commissioners are aware, that, as a Second and Supplemental Part of the First Volume of the Acts of Parliament, the *Regiam Majestatem*, together with some apocryphal parts of our ancient law, are intended to follow the more genuine and authentic proceedings of the Scottish Legislature. The collation and final adjustment of this part of the work will still require a considerable share of my attention, and to that object I hope to be able to devote the Summer and Autumn of the present year.

THO. THOMSON.

* June 8....320 pages of Transcript reported.

Seventy-Ninth Quarterly Report to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1827.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and mending Records, &c.*—Among other operations of minor importance falling under this head, great progress has been made in cleaning and arranging original Warrants and Papers of the Privy Council of Scotland, some of which are rendered of essential utility from the loss of the regular Books of Record in which they must have been engrossed.

2. *Registers of Scisins.*—During the last quarter 6803 entries have been added to the Abridgment of this Record, now making a total of 87,064. During the same period the progress of this work at the press has been more than usually rapid, fifty-three sheets having been printed off, viz.—

Ayr	5
Clackmannan	3
Stirling	13
Fife	19
Perth	13
	53 sheets.

The work, in so far as now printed, amounts to 487 sheets, or 1948 pages of large folio.

3. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—A continuation of the Alphabetical Index to this Record from the year 1820, that is, from the termination of the volume already printed down to the present time, is now in progress; and, like that of the Index of Inhibitions, will as soon as possible be made accessible in manuscript to the public.

II. *Retours of Services.*

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III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The revisal of this work has advanced from the year 1525 to the year 1529, that is, from the 12th to the 16th years of the reign of James V. The compilation of the Charters in the reign of Mary for the years 1546 and 1547, has at the same time been in regular and steady progress.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—Some very valuable contributions to the proposed Collection of Ancient Royal Charters have been recently obtained from the Archives of the Earldom of Morton; and in the transcription of these, as well as of some of the Charters formerly obtained from the Charter Room of Panmure, considerable progress has been made.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

Regular and rapid progress has been made in the transcription of the Books of Parliament of the reign of Charles I.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTIETH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1827.*

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and mending Records.*—Some further progress has been made in cleaning and arranging the Warrants of Privy Council, and various other State Papers deposited in the General Register House.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—To the Abridgment of these Registers there have been added 6792 entries, making at present a total of

93,856. At the same time forty-nine sheets have been printed, viz.—

Argyll	5
Dumbarton	5
Edinburgh	23
Forfar	13
Kinross	2
Perth	1
	49 sheets.

3. *Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications.*—Further progress has been made in compiling an Alphabetical Index to this Record from 1820 to the present time.

II. *Retours of Services.*

* * * *

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The compilation of this Abridgment has advanced from the year 1548 to 1550 inclusive, and the revisal has been brought down to the year 1533. In its progress downwards the Register becomes more and more voluminous, and the advancement of its abridgment, although really increasing in rapidity, becomes apparently more show.

2. *Collection of Royal Charters.*—The transcription of the Morton Charters has been in further progress, and will afford most valuable additions to the proposed work. But still larger and more interesting accessions will now be derived from a large collection of the Ancient Original Charters of the Abbey of Melrose, which the Lord Clerk Register has been fortunate enough to acquire by purchase for the use of the Public, and which are now deposited in the General Register House. The instruments are in general in fine preservation, and comprehend many Royal Charters from David the First, down to James the Fifth. Along with these original Charters there has been acquired a fine transcript of the Chartulary of Melrose, preserved in

the Harleian Library of Manuscripts [No. 3960], and which is rendered highly valuable from the loss of a considerable number of the instruments that are there recorded.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

During the period of the Report very rapid progress has been made in the transcription of the Books of Parliament of Charles the First's reign. As however only one hand is employed in this work, I cannot expect the compilation of it before the end of another year.

In the compilation of the great Index of Matters to the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, regular and steady progress has also been made by the learned person to whom the work has been entrusted.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1827.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and mending Records.*—The original Warrants of the Privy Council have continued to occupy the person employed in this department, but still a more laborious process has now been commenced, in preparing various classes of the more important National Records for their depositation in the large new apartment that is now nearly ready for their reception.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—In the laborious and most important work of abridging this Record a very regular advancement continues to be made. During the last quarter 7000 entries have been added to the Abridgment, and forty-three sheets have been printed off, viz.—

Berwick	6
Dumfries	6
Kirkcudbright	6
Edinburgh	3
Haddington	4
Linlithgow	4
Lanark	3
Roxburgh	9
Wigton	2
	43 sheets.

II. *Retours of Services.*

* * * *

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The advancement of this important and difficult work has continued at nearly the same rate as during the last year. The first Abridgment is now brought down from the year 1550 to 1554, and the revisal has been brought down to the year 1537.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—During the last quarter considerable further progress has been made in the transcription of ancient Charters, particularly of those obtained from the Archives of the Earldom of Morton, which include many interesting Charters of the potent family of Douglas, which tend to illustrate general history, as well as that of the potent family to which they more immediately relate; and in the history of which, during the latter half of the fourteenth century, there are certain obscure and disputed points, on which considerable light will be thrown by means of the documents.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

A continued and steady progress has been made in the transcription of the Parliamentary Record of the reign of Charles the First; and I may here take leave to add, that the importance of this Record, so fortunately recovered to the country, has been already demonstrated by the valuable information it has furnished in several questions of legal right which have recently occurred.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1828.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning Original Documents and Records.*—In continuation of the process of cleaning and arranging the original Proceedings (Warrants) of the Privy Council, and of the Commissioners of Teinds (Tithes), regular progress has been made; and in cleaning, numbering, and arranging the voluminous Register of the Decrees of the Court of Session, much laborious work has been accomplished. But as to the more minute details which fall under this head, I refrain from troubling His Majesty's Commissioners, as the expense attending them has been defrayed out of the ordinary funds of the Register House.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—In the Abridgment of these Registers during the time of this period, an addition of 5590 entries has been made, forming a total of 106,454 articles or entries; and in the printing of the work the additional progress has amounted to forty-two sheets, viz.—

Shire of Lanark	9	
——— Renfrew.....	18	
Barony of Glasgow.....	15	sheets.
	42	

3. *Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—The continuation of the Alphabetical Indexes to these Records subsequent to the year 1820, has been in progress, and has been brought down to the conclusion of the latest date of those hitherto transmitted to the General Register House.

II. *Retours of Services.*

* * * *

III. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the fur-

ther and regular progress of this work the first abridgment has been brought down from the year 1554 to the year 1557; and in the revision and correction of the Abridgment the progress during the last quarter has been from the year 1537 to the year 1540.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—Besides some less considerable additions to the proposed Collection of Ancient Royal Charters, the archives of the family of Morton, and of Maule of Panmure, have continued to furnish very important accessions. The original Charters of the Monastery of Melrose, now deposited in the General Register House, have not yet been transcribed, it being of more urgent expediency to dispose of those, the originals of which must be restored to the owners, by whose liberality their use has been thus communicated.

IV. *Parliamentary Records.*

The transcription of the lately recovered Registers of Parliament in the Reign of Charles I. continues in progress, and during the last quarter 676 pages have been added to those formerly reported.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—July, 1828.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—This, which is necessarily a work of slow progress, has continued to occupy the time of one person.

2. The arrangement of the Records to be transferred into the new apartment, has occupied much time and attention. The Registers of the Great Seal, of the Privy Seal, and of Parliament and Privy Council, together with the voluminous Register of Deeds in the Books of Council and Session have been already placed.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—The progress made in the abridgment of these Records has been as usual rapid and steady. During the last three months 6302 entries have been added; the total number of abbreviated instruments now amounting to 112,756.

To the printed work 47 sheets have been added, viz.—

Of Ayr	20
Caithness	2
Edinburgh	10
Elgin and Forres	2
Inverness	2
Ross	3
Sutherland	1
Orkney	2
Shetland	2
Renfrew	3
In all	47 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The revisal and correction of this work is now brought down nearly to the end of the reign of James V. The increasing length and intricacy of the instruments has of course rendered the progress of the work, as to time, apparently less rapid; but in the revisal, as well as in the primary formation of the abridgment, very constant advances have been made.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—In the progress of this work there have been unavoidable fluctuations, but it continues to advance. The fluctuations to which I allude, arose mainly from this, that the person on whose skill I chiefly rely in the transcription of these ancient instruments, is also much employed in other departments in the office.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

The transcription of the Registers of Parliament in the reign of Charles I., has been advancing very rapidly, and will, I trust, be accomplished nearly within the period which I had originally calculated.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1828.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—In this department much remains to be done: but the absence on leave of the person usually employed has left me nothing to report for the last quarter.

2. In cleaning and preparing for deposition in the new Record Room, great progress has been made; and several thousand volumes have been there arranged and placed.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—In the course of last quarter, 7400 entries have been added to the abridgment of these Registers, making at present a total of 120,156 instruments, of which an exact abridgment has been made.

During the same period 58 sheets of the work have been printed, viz.—

Of Edinburgh	19
Haddington	9
Linlithgow	3
Fife	17
Forfar	10
In all	58 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The primary formation of this abridgment is now far advanced into the reign of Queen Mary. The revisal is brought down to the termination of that of James V. in 1542, the total number of recorded Charters for that reign being 2858. The revisal of the work for the earlier years of Queen Mary has also advanced from 1542 to 1546.

2. *Collection of Ancient Royal Charters.*—In the transcription of original Royal Charters of the early Sovereigns of Scotland further progress has been made, and some valuable accessions to the collection have been obtained.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

In the transcription of the Parliamentary Registers of Charles I. very steady progress has been made. The copy is now brought down to the year 1648, and amounts to 5242 pages.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-FIFTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1828.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—The operations in this department have been resumed, and progress has been made in cleaning and arranging the original Warrants of the Privy Council of Scotland, previous to their depositation in the new Record Room.

2. *Indexes of the Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—These compilations, so important for the purposes of daily consultation, have been carried on progressively down to the present time as rapidly as the nature of the work will admit. Of their great practical utility the experience is now most complete and satisfactory.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—During the quarter to which the present Report relates, 7739 entries have been added to the abridgment of these Registers, making the total of abbreviated Instruments 127,895, and during the same period fifty sheets have been printed, viz.—

Of Forfar	4 sheets
Lanark	7

Renfrew	22
Glasgow (Barony)	17
	In all 50 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The formation of this Abridgment has now been brought down to the commencement of the reign of James VI. in 1568, and the revisal of that for the preceding reign of Mary has been brought down to the year 1549.

2. *Ancient Royal Charters.*—The transcription of Charters intended to form part of this collection has been in progress. The total number added during this and the three preceding quarters of the year 1828 has been greater than in any corresponding period.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

The transcription of the Registers of Parliament in the reign of Charles I. is advancing rapidly to a close. During the last quarter 960 pages have been added.

The great Index of Matters to the printed Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland has been during the last year in constant progress. It is now brought down nearly to the commencement of the reign of Charles II., and from the diligence and talents of the gentleman employed on it, I look forward with confidence to its successful termination.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-SIXTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1829.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—The numerous Warrants and other documents connected with the proceedings of the Scottish Privy Council, continue to employ the labours of the person to whom this department is committed.

2. *Register of Inhibitions.*—The Alphabetical Index to these Records continues to be carried on in regular progress, so as to bring it down to the latest date.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—During this quarter 5643 entries have been added to the Abridgment; the total number of abreviated Instruments now being 133,538. During the same period 46 sheets have been printed, viz.

Of Argyll	4
Berwick	4
Clackmannan	3
Dumbarton	4
Lanark	6
Perth	13
Stirling	12
In all	46 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of Register of the Great Seal.*—During this quarter the formation of the abridgment of the Charters in the earlier years of the reign of James VI. has been in progress, and has been brought down to the end of the year 1573. The revisal of those in the reign of Mary has been brought down to the end of the year 1553.

2. *Ancient Royal Charters.*—To the proposed collection some valuable additions have been made, of which however the greater part yet remain for transcription.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

The transcription of the lately recovered Registers of the reign of Charles I., in 4 volumes, in folio, commencing in 1639, and ending in 1649, has been completed. The copy has been carefully made, but remains to be collated. It amounts in all to 7048 closely written pages. I shall take an early opportunity of submitting to the consideration of His Majesty's Commissioners the course I should propose to follow in the disposal of this most valuable addition to the Records of the Parliaments of Scotland.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-SEVENTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1829.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—The original Instruments recorded in the Books of Council and Session form a large mass of those preserved in this office. They commence in date about the year 1560, and are, many of them, in a decayed state. It has been considered as an important object, to have them carefully examined and mended, when that is possible, and accurately arranged. This laborious work has been commenced, and the result has been such as to evince its great propriety and probable utility.

2. *Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—The Alphabetical Indexes to those Registers, in continuation of those formerly completed, have been in progress.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—Since the beginning of the present year the number of entries added to the Abridgment has been 5509, making a total of 139,047, and the following sheets have been added to the printed work.

Banff	2
Berwick	2
Caithness	2
Cromarty	1
Dumfries	6
Elgin and Forres	2
Inverness	3
Kinross	2
Kirkcudbright	5
Nairn	1
Orkney	4
Shetland	1
Peebles	2
Ross	2
Roxburgh	7
Selkirk	1
Sutherland	1
Wigton	2

Printed 46 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment.*—Further progress has been made in the compilation of this work, which is now brought down to the beginning of the year 1576. In the revisal, also, farther progress has been made, which brings it down to the year 1557. About this period the Royal Grants and Confirmations of Grants are unusually complex and of difficult abridgment.

2. *Ancient Charters.*—In the transcription of Charters little further progress has been made, owing to the very laborious duties in other departments which have engaged those usually employed in this business; but as there are now a very considerable number of very ancient and curious documents of this class collected and ready for transcription, I mean, as soon as possible, to employ several goods hands for that purpose.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

Some interesting additions to the Records of Parliament in the fourteenth century have lately been brought to light and

obtained for public use. These have been carefully transcribed, and will be inserted in the printed work.

On the further progress of the Index of Matters to that work, I continue to receive satisfactory reports.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-EIGHTH QUARTERLY REPORT to his Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1829.

I. *General Register House,*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—The laborious process of cleaning and repairing the decayed Warrants of the Registers of Deeds in the Books of Council and Session has been in further progress, and its necessity has been rendered more and more apparent.

2. *Register of Inhibitions.*—The Index to the General Register of Inhibitions has been completed to the end of the year 1828, and will be speedily put into use.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—Since the last Report 5251 entries have been added to the Abridgment, the present amount being in all 144,298. At the same time 52 sheets have been printed, viz.—

Of Argyll	5
Ayr	20
Bute	1
Dumbarton	4
Fife	20
Shetland	2
In all	52 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—A considerable time in the last quarter has been employed in completing the Abridgment of a peculiar class of Royal Charters, entitled

Charters of Apprising, which I had directed the compilers to leave until I had satisfied myself as to the fittest mode of reducing them into a very condensed form. In the revisal the work has been brought down to the year 1565.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—Although a considerable number of transcripts have been added, I have not yet been enabled to detach from other operations the hands I propose to employ in this department, as stated in my last Report. This, however, I shall now be able to accomplish in a very short time.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

At present I shall refrain from reporting any thing under this head, further than to say, that I have been making anxious preparations to enable me to redeem my pledge of completing the first volume of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland in the course of the ensuing year.

THO. THOMSON.

EIGHTY-NINTH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1829.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—Since the date of the last Report, the person employed in this Department has been exclusively occupied in cleaning and repairing the decayed Warrants of the Books of Council and Session.

2. *Registers of Inhibitions and of Adjudications.*—In the formation of continued Indexes to these Records there is very little that can be stated as an arrear, and that little can be ascribed only to the indisposition and declining health of the Officer to whom the business is committed.

Although I am anxious to report on this, as on every other matter interesting in itself to the state of the Public Records, I presume it is known to the Board that the operations under this and the preceding head are carried on solely on the ordinary funds of the Establishment for the General Register House.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—Within the period of this Report, 5566 entries have been added to the Abridgment of these Records, and to the Printed Work the number of sheets added has been 45; viz.:

Of Lanark 13, Glasgow 21
Renfrew 24

In all, 45 sheets.

I have frequently alluded to the very regular and satisfactory conduct of this most important Work. Besides the weekly returns made to me of the attendance and work done by every one of the persons employed in it, I receive Quarterly Statements of the general progress of the Work; and as I apprehend it may be satisfactory to His Majesty's Commissioners to be made fully aware of the mode in which this very interesting Work has been carried on, I have ventured to annex to this Report the last Statement that has been made up, as at the close of the year 1829. *

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—In the formation of this Abridgment very little progress has been made since the date of the last Report, partly owing to the indisposition of the person entrusted with this department of the Work, and partly to his having been recently employed on the transcription of ancient Royal Charters.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—Since the date of the last Report, very great and rapid progress has been made in the transcription of ancient Royal Charters, and other relative instruments. The originals of these have been derived, in the greater part, from the Archives of the Monastery of Melrose; and, in point of interest, as illustrative of the historical and legal Antiquities of Scotland, they greatly surpass any other similar collection with which I am acquainted.

III. *Parliamentary Records.* *

For a considerable time past I have been assiduously employed on a final review of the materials for the First Volume of the

* [*See* Min. Bk. *vol.* x. *p.* 68.]

Parliamentary Collection, and more particularly of what in date precedes the reign of David II. The whole of this portion of the Work had been sent to press, and had undergone the most careful correction a great while ago, when some unlooked for discoveries were made of Manuscripts anterior in date to any that had been previously known. These I have thought it my duty to examine with the most minute and scrupulous attention, and I have no hesitation in saying that the result has proved highly conducive to the accuracy and authenticity of what now remains of the early legislation of Scotland. This statement will appear the less surprising, when it is borne in mind that the best manuscripts known to Lord Hailes, or to any of our Scottish antiquaries of the last age, could not be assigned to an earlier period than the latter years of the reign of James I.; whereas the manuscript to which, in particular, I would now be considered as referring, is certainly of a date several years prior to the middle of the fourteenth century. In the course of a short time I hope to accomplish all that the materials within my reach have rendered practicable, for the completion of this earlier and more perilous portion of the Work. The remainder will have the advantage of being comparatively more easy and secure, as being derived from less questionable sources. Indeed, for the greater part of it, the evidence of genuine record is nearly complete.

THO. THOMSON.

NINETIETH QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1830.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Mending Records.*—In continuation of the process which has for many months been in progress, in cleaning and arranging the Warrants of the Register of Deeds in the Books of Council and Session, a considerable advance has been made on that part of the Collection which belongs to the first twenty years of the seventeenth century.

2. *Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—In continuing the Indexes to those Records up to the latest period, the arrear is at present very inconsiderable, and would have been entirely brought up had the declining health of the Assistant Deputy Keeper of Records in the Register House, to whom this duty has been committed, permitted him to proceed with his accustomed diligence and zeal.

3. *Registers of Seisins, &c.*—Since the date of my last Report there have been added to the Abridgment of these Records 6275 entries, making a general total of 156,139; and within the same period forty-six sheets of the Abridgment have been finished at press; viz.

Berwick	1
Dumfries	7
Kirkcudbright	7
Lanark	14
Barony of Glasgow	5
Peebles	1
Roxburgh	8
Selkirk	1
Wigton	2
In all	46 sheets.

The total number of printed sheets amounts at this period to 1,006, making altogether 4,024 printed pages.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—During the period of this Report, very constant progress has been made both in the formation of this Abridgment, and in its revisal.

The Work is now brought down to the month of September 1577.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—The additions made to the transcripts of ancient Royal Charters during the last quarter have been numerous and highly valuable. These have been derived chiefly from the ancient muniments of the Abbey of Melrose, and from those of some of the most ancient families in Scotland.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

Within the period of this Report, very considerable progress has been made in the final correction and completion at the press of the earlier portions of the Parliamentary Records, which are to constitute the text of the First Volume of the Work.

At the same time; continued progress has been reported to me by the gentleman employed in framing an Index of Matters to the whole Work.

THO. THOMSON.

NINETY-FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. April—June, 1830.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Assorting, Cleaning, and Mending of decayed Records.*—Since the date of the last Report constant progress has been made in the cleaning and arranging of the original Warrants of the Register of Deeds, &c., many of which have suffered considerably from the gradual progress of decay, as well as from the damp to which they were exposed before the erection of the present Register House. Those for the years preceding 1630 have been now replaced within presses that have been recently fitted up for that purpose.

2. *Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—The continued indisposition of the Assistant Keeper of Records, to whom the business had been allotted, has prevented the continuation of the Indexes of Inhibitions and Adjudications from being carried forward as usual.

3. *Registers of Seisins, &c.*—In the compilation and printing of the Abridgment of these Registers the following progress has been made: To the Abridgment 7236 entries have been added, making a total of 163,375. Those drawn from the General Register of Seisins bring down the compilation to the month of September, 1815; those from the Particular Registers, with a

very few exceptions, bring it down to the beginning of the year 1820, being the last of the first series of forty years.

In the last Quarter the following sheets have been printed:

Berwick	5
Forfar	15
Perth	17
Stirling	15
	52 sheets.

These are all of the period from 1800 to 1805.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The compilation of this work has been brought down to the year 1579, and the revisal to the month of August, 1578.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—During the same period a great number of transcripts of original charters have been added to the collection, many of them of great antiquity and curiosity.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

While the proceedings of the Parliaments of David II. and Robert II. have been going through the press, some important additions of original records have been found; and it is probable that from the same source some others of the same period may yet be recovered.

THO. THOMSON.

NINETY-SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. July—September, 1830.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Repairing decayed Records.*—In continuation of the process formerly reported, the Warrants of the Books of Council and Session, consisting of original deeds, have been cleaned and assorted down to the middle of the seventeenth century.

2. *Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—For the reason formerly assigned, no further progress has been made in the compilation of Indexes to these Records.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—The progress made during the last three months in the compilation and printing of the Abridgment of Seisins has been as follows: To those already reported 7642 entries have been added, making a total of 171,017; and there have been printed 53 sheets; viz.

Clackmannan	4
Edinburgh	41
Haddington	4
Linlithgow	4
	53 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The compilation of this work has advanced from the year 1579 to the month of July 1581, and from the year 1600 to 1602.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—To this collection a few have been added since the date of the last Report.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

I have the satisfaction of stating that two Original Rolls of Parliament have been recovered from the same source formerly alluded to; the contents of which are very valuable, and will take their place in the series of the Acts of Robert II. and Robert III.

THO. THOMSON.

NINETY-THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. October—December, 1830.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Arranging Records.*—The laborious process of cleaning and arranging the Warrants of the Register of Deeds has been completed; other miscellaneous instruments and papers have also been repaired.

2. *Registers of Inhibitions and Adjudications.*—The Assistant Deputy Keeper of Records has continued unable to resume the compilation of Indexes to these Records, nor do I entertain any hope of his ever becoming able to do so.

3. *Registers of Seisins.*—In the compilation of the Abridgment 7083 entries have been added; total, 178,100; and the following sheets have been printed:—

Argyll	5
Ayr	25
Banff	1
Elgin and Forres	1
Inverness	4
Kinross	3
Linlithgow	1
Ross	3
	43 sheets.

II. *Royal Charters.*

Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.—This Work has advanced from July, 1581, to October, 1582, and from January 1602, to March, 1603.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

In the transcription, arrangement and revisal of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland further progress has been made.

THO. THOMSON.

Ninety-Fourth Quarterly Report to His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of the Kingdom. January—March, 1831.

I. *General Register House.*

1. *Cleaning and Repairing decayed Records.*—In pursuance of the plan of improved arrangement and disposal of the large masses of original Warrants, which has been already completed as to the Record of Deeds, some progress has been already made in cleaning and assorting the still more voluminous Warrants of the Record of Decrees in the Court of Session. These begin about the middle of the sixteenth century.

2. *Registers of Seisins.*—The compilation of the first part or first series of the Abridgment of Seisins, extending from January, 1781, to December, 1820, is now very nearly completed. That portion of the work which is drawn from the Particular Registers of Seisins is now quite complete; and the number of Instruments that have been abridged amounts to 140,996. The other portion, drawn from the General Register of Seisins, has been brought down to the year 1817, and already contains 29,664 entries; and within a few months the whole, down to December, 1820, inclusive, will also be completed. Considerable progress has also been made in the compilation of the Second Series, beginning in January, 1821, particularly for the great counties of Edinburgh, Lanark, including Glasgow, and Renfrew including Greenock; and the number of Instruments within this period already abridged amounts to 15,241, making a total in both series of 185,801. The portion of these numbers which properly belongs to the present quarter amounts to 7701.

In printing the Abridgment the following is the state of progress:—

Argyll	1
Berwick	7
Dumbarton	7
Dumfries	8
Kirkcudbright	8
Roxburgh	9
Wigton	3

Being in all 43 sheets.

The total number of printed sheets now amounts to 1197, or 4788 pages.

II. *Royal Charters.*

1. *Abridgment of the Register of the Great Seal.*—The collation and revisal of the first draught of this Abridgment, so far as it had been framed in the month of April last, having been brought down to the year 1578, both the gentlemen employed on this work have been since occupied in continuing to abridge different portions of the Register. During the last quarter the compilation has advanced from October, 1582, to August, 1583, and from March, 1603, to June 1605.

It appears to me that this Abridgment, in the form hitherto followed, may be fitly terminated in the reign of James VI.; and that for the subsequent part of this Voluminous Record a short Tabular Index may be sufficient for ordinary purposes.

In consequence of the very numerous alterations and additions introduced on the first draught of the work, it becomes absolutely necessary to have the whole re-copied before it can be entrusted to the printer.

2. *Collection of Ancient Charters.*—Within the period of the present Report, no considerable addition has been made to this collection. Being derived chiefly from the Archives of Corporations, or from the repositories of private individuals, the communications sought for or obtained are of course very variable and uncertain.

The number of Original Royal Charters prior to the reigns of Mary and James VI. already transcribed, but of which the record has perished, amounts to more than fifteen hundred.

III. *Parliamentary Records.*

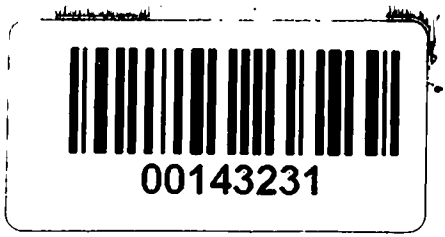
The whole of that more important part of the first volume of the Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland, which consists of Statutes and other proceedings in full Parliament, has been printed, with the exception of a small portion in the reign of Robert III. The Record of the Public Acts of that reign appears to have been lost at the date of Sir John Skene's publication of our ancient laws in 1608; and the copies that have come down to the present time have required very scrupulous collation to

avoid the introduction of apocryphal matter; but that difficulty has now, I trust, been satisfactorily surmounted.

When the first volume has been completed it may become proper to consider in what manner the Records of the Parliaments of Charles I., recently discovered in His Majesty's State Paper Office, ought to be disposed of.

In the compilation of the General Index of Matters for the whole work great progress has been made; and if it should be found advisable to sub-divide it into periods, the whole of that prior to the reign of Charles I. might soon be ready for the press. For the first volume a separate Index ought at all events to be constructed.

THO. THOMSON.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